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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-214 *6 November 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head Urges Summit on Embassy Move

NC0411192695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, has called for a limited Arab summit which the Arab nations can use to prove its solidarity regarding the U.S. Senate's decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He said this decision is considered a clear violation of all previous U.S. stances, which emphasized that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories. He added, the international legitimacy relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, particularly Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace, apply. In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said that he extended an invitation to the permanent Arab League envoys to meet on Monday [6 November] and discuss a method for joint Arab action to confront the U.S. Senate's decision.

Palestinian Affairs

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Impact of Assassination

JN0511143695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the directives of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian command and the National Authority's Council of Ministers held an urgent extraordinary meeting today. The conferees discussed the serious consequences of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Council of Ministers will remain in continuous session to discuss all aspects of the situation.

PA Decries Decision To Shut Washington Office

NC0311150095 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 3 (AFP) - Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority [PA] on Friday [3 November] blasted a U.S. decision to close the PLO's Washington office, saying it broke American commitments to the peace process.

"The series of measures taken by the American Congress, without reason, to harm the PLO, violate the commitments made by the United States within the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords," said Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

"We consider these measures, especially at this time, reflect an attempt by Israel's supporters within the Congress and Israeli extremists to stop the peace process just as it is in a decisive stage with the spread of autonomy on the West Bank," Kanafani told AFP.

He added the Palestinian Authority had received assurances from the U.S. administration on the future of relations.

"The American administration told us it is going to overcome the difficulties and relations with the Palestinian Authority will resume their normal course," he said.

The U.S. State Department announced Thursday the PLO's Washington office would have to close because the Republican-run Congress had suspended funds to the Palestinians.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the office would shut in line with U.S. law, but that the administration was working hard to find a way of keeping it running.

U.S. aid to Palestinians ran out Tuesday at midnight, falling victim to an unrelated dispute between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Republican senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He blocked funding to the Palestinians in an attempt to wrest concessions from the administration on plans to get rid of some foreign policy agencies and reorganise the State Department.

The United States has pledged to give the Palestinians 500 million dollars in aid over five years. Most of the U.S. aid goes to organisations not directly linked to the PLO.

Kanafani said the aid pledged for 1996 would be given to the self-rule authority if it is approved by the Congress.

"If the Congress decision is not changed it will be worrying for keeping up aid in the future," he said.

Qaddumi Against U.S. Move To Close PLO Office

JN0411100295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 4 Nov (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the recent U.S. decision not to extend the mandate of the PLO office in Washington is designed to deflect attention from the Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

In a press statement distributed in Tunis today, Qaddumi added that the United States is nowadays staging a maneuver, using the U.S. Congress, to delude the

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world public into believing that it is serious in its efforts to support the peace process regardless of the difficulties created by the Congress, and that it is firm in its endeavors to pressure Israel into complying with the principles of the peace process. However, it is regrettable, he maintained, that the U.S. Administration has not thus far recognized the PLO.

Qaddumi went on to say that the Palestinian Information Office in Washington does not have any diplomatic or representational status, but is operating under the auspices of the Arab League. He emphasized that the U.S. Administration has not thus far pressured Israel into complying with the principles of the Middle East peace process.

Kanafani Criticizes Congress Measures on PLO

JN0311162295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, criticized the measures the U.S. Congress is taking against the PLO.

He pointed out that these measures are unjustified annoyance and that they conflict with U.S. commitments to the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Kanafani added that the Palestinian side received reassurances from the U.S. Administration in this regard. He said that U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington told President Yasir 'Arafat that the U.S. Administration will overcome these difficulties.

'Arafat on Embassy Move at Chicago Conference

JN0311152395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today addressed the 27th annual conference of the United Welfare Society for the Holy Lands being held in the U.S. city of Chicago. President 'Arafat reviewed the Israeli obstacles impeding the implementation of the second part of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He said any good agreement can succeed only if there are good intentions and if it is implemented honestly and meticulously. President 'Arafat urged the conferees to exploit the capabilities and expertise which are available among the diaspora in building the homeland. He also called for employing relations with the friendly U.S. forces and groupings on the U.S. scene to abort the U.S. Congress bill on moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

Jihad Official Joins 'Arafat for Friday Prayers

JN0311162695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat performed the Friday prayers at the al-Kanz Mosque in Gaza.

Mosque preacher Shaykh Haydar Sukayk stressed the Islamic character of Jerusalem and called on the Arab and Islamic Worlds to defend Jerusalem. He also emphasized the importance of national unity to confront the conspiracies concocted against the holy city.

Shaykh Hamad Abu-Sirdanah, the chief qadi; Shaykh Fayiz al-Aswad, the leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions; and a number of civil and military officials also performed the prayers with President 'Arafat.

Jihad Said Preparing for 'Major Operation'

MM0311164895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Nov 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Expected Retaliation From Jihad Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the Islamic Jihad Movement to threaten to avenge the assassination of its leader, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, in Malta by Mosad agents and for it to carry out its threats less than a week after the assassination operation means that the movement still has numerous suicide bombers who do not hesitate for a moment to respond to the martyrdom call and to blow themselves up inside Israeli targets.

The double operation in the Gaza yesterday, which resulted in the killing and wounding of at least 10 Israelis, is swift and hasty retaliation to the Israeli crime. But it will not be the last. Without doubt those who planned the Tel Aviv double operation last January, which resulted in the killing of 24 Israeli soldiers, are currently busy preparing for a major operation that matches Dr. al-Shaqaqi's standing and hurts Yitzhaq Rabin, who gave the go-ahead for al-Shaqaqi's assassination, as he is in charge of all Israeli security organs as prime minister and defense minister.

The movement has succeeded in closing its ranks and electing a new leader. Dr. al-Shaqaqi's funeral in Damascus three days ago reflected the movement's popularity among Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, in addition to the scale of the Iranian and Syrian support it enjoys — which refutes all the speculations that the movement is small and would shrink after the martyrdom of its mastermind, Dr. al-Shaqaqi.

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It is clear that the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip will pay a price bigger than the price Yitzhaq Rabin and his government are going to pay. Because the reprisal operations carried out by the Jihad Movement will give Israel an excuse not only to obstruct its forces' withdrawal from the cities and villages of the West Bank in accordance with the Oslo agreement, but also to close the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the pretext of preventing suicide operations — which would cause new difficulties for the Palestinian people and their weak economy.

The Palestinian Authority must be given credit for succeeding in persuading Hamas and the Jihad movement to adhere to an open truce and to suspend suicide operations against Israeli settlers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in order to deny Israel the opportunity to resort to procrastination and to speed up the withdrawal from the West Bank, hence benefiting the Palestinians through the flow of the money donated by the donor states, which is conditional on elections and the expansion of self-rule. But Rabin's government, which chose to assassinate al-Shaqaqi during the Amman economic summit, wanted to torpedo this truce completely and to bring back tension to the Palestinian scene.

The Jihad movement announced after the assassination of its leader that it is was no longer committed to the truce, and it immediately started to violate it by carrying out two operations against Israeli targets in the Gaza Strip. This means that the Palestinian Authority is required to launch new arrest campaigns against Jihad elements and leaders inside [the self-rule area], in conformity to the terms of the Oslo agreements and in submission to Israeli pressure in this connection.

Israel deliberately moved the circle of conflict outside the occupied land when it pursued Dr. al-Shaqaqi and sent its agents to assassinate him in Malta. It wants to provoke the Palestinians to force them to carry out revenge operations against its embassies and interests abroad so that it can level accusations of terrorism at them — accusations which have disappeared since the signing of recent peace agreements and the PLO's public renunciation of international terrorism in 1989.

The Israeli plan to harm the Palestinians abroad and backtrack on the implementation of the peace agreements inside is now clear. Everyone can easily identify it. But the more dangerous element in this plan is the fact that Israel has gone back to wagering on civil war in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and thwarting the fruitful efforts exerted by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to reinforce national unity and prevent Palestinian infighting.

We hope that the two sides — the Authority and the opposition — will realize the dimensions of this terrorist trend in Israeli thinking and to prepare well to confront its complications and prevent infighting by any means.

Hamas Hand in Selection of Jihad Successor Seen

JN0411111095 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic Jihad Movement ranking official has told AL-URDUN that the movement will follow a new course under Ramadan 'Abdallah al-Shallah, who is known to be very close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He shares with Hamas many ideas regarding the self-rule authority and Israel.

He is also known to be closer to the line adopted by Hamas with regard to relations with Iran and Libya and the question of escalation against Israel.

Observers indicate that the Jihad Movement's new leader will introduce himself through a major extraordinary martyrdom-seeking operation that will make other contenders acknowledge his leadership of the movement.

The operation may not necessarily take place inside Israel. Rather, the Islamic Jihad members may carry out such an operation somewhere else, which could be an Arab or European country.

Through persuasion by 'Imad al-'Alami, who currently lives in Damascus, Hamas has influenced the election of al-Shaqaqi's successor. Observers have indicated that Hamas' success was manifested in the exclusion of Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, who is currently in Lebanon; Bashir Nafi', currently in Gaza; Ahmad Muhanna ("Hizballah's Palestinian man"); and Abu-Usamah [not further identified], who is currently in Sudan.

All the above were qualified to succeed al-Shaqaqi. However, all of them are considered followers of the radical Iranian line rejecting cooperation and coordination with Hamas.

Months ago, some members of the radical right-wing line met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi in Tehran. The spokesman for the delegation was Muhammad Abu-Samrah, a former Islamic Jihad leader, whom Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi tried to assassinate on 20 July 1992 in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut. That was because of Abu-Samrah's control of Islamic Jihad cadres and attempts to have them operate in accordance with Iranian and Hizballah instructions.

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After the abortive attempt on his life, Muhammad Abu-Samrah swore before a team of vanguards of the nationalist Lebanese movement and in front of Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [Lebanese Islamic figure] that he would kill Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Legislative Elections Set for 20 Jan

JN0411082995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority [NA] Council of Ministers held its weekly session at the Presidential Office in Gaza last night under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, said President 'Arafat briefed the council on the ongoing contacts to convene a mini Arab summit in Morocco to confront the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. 'Abd-al-Rahim noted that other contacts are being held with nonaligned countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to confront the Congress decision on the Arab, international, Islamic, and Christian levels. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that President 'Arafat briefed the council on the results of the meetings the Palestinian delegation held in connection with the Amman Economic Summit.

The NA Council of Ministers agreed to set 20 January [1996] as the date for holding legislative elections. Regarding the coming elections, the central elections committee set 12 November as the date for starting the registration of voters. Sa'ib 'Uryaqat, local government minister and chairman of the central elections committee, called on our people to cooperate with the approximately 7,000 teachers who will register the names of voters.

The first group of European observers, who will monitor the Palestinian elections, is scheduled to arrive in Ramallah on 9 November. Those 66 European observers will monitor the registration of citizens in the voters lists.

Assumption of Janin Powers To Conclude 8 Dec

JN0411160395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civil affairs, has said that the National Authority's assumption of civilian powers in the area of Janin will be completed on 8 December. This is part of the National Authority's extension of its mandate on the area of Janin and the withdrawal of the occupation forces from it.

Abu-Rudaynah Views Jerusalem, Israel's Stance

NC0311153095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Muhammad Husayn on "The World Around Us" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Egypt's stance on Jerusalem, as President Mubarak says, is decisive and clear. This was demonstrated in his statements earlier this week. How does the Palestinian Authority [PA] assess these statements?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First, President Mubarak's statements on Jerusalem offer nothing new. This is a firm Egyptian stance, not only on Jerusalem, but on Palestine as a whole.

Jerusalem is an occupied Arab city. Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is part of the occupied territories to which Resolution 242 applies and is an issue covered by the U.S. letter of guarantees.

Egypt's positions and the efforts made by President Mubarak are permanent and continuous.

[Husayn] How can any move be made on this issue on the Arab level to define lines for what might happen later, especially as we approach U.S. and Israeli elections?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As for Jerusalem, you know President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a meeting in Amman on the sidelines of the economic summit. It was attended by [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Moroccan Prime Minister Filali, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the Tunisian foreign minister, and other foreign ministers who participated in the summit. The discussion dealt with the best means to follow up on the Jerusalem issue.

There will be a move on the Arab League level by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. There will also be a move by the Organization of the Islamic Conference General Secretariat and the Jerusalem Committee. So [Moroccan] Prime Minister Filali attended because Morocco chairs the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Jerusalem Committee. There will also be a move on the level of the UN General Assembly through the Arab delegates and the Islamic countries participating in the General Assembly.

[Husayn] In his interview with CNN, President Mubarak said that what has been proposed about Jerusalem is not in the interest of peace.

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[Abu-Rudaynah] This runs counter to international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions. This is a challenge and provocation for the Arab and Islamic nation. There has been agreement that Jerusalem would be placed on the agenda of the final phase negotiations. Any change to Jerusalem's status, whether on the ground or by transferring embassies to Jerusalem, contravenes the conditions on the basis of which the Palestinian and Arab delegations went to the Madrid peace conference.

We went to the peace conference on the grounds of Resolution 242, which regards Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. We also went to the Madrid peace conference on the grounds of the U.S. letter of guarantees, which prevent Israel or others from making any change on the ground in East Jerusalem.

[Husayn] As regards the current peace process between Israel and the PA to implement and activate the Taba accord, what is happening now, especially in light of positions that might affect the implementation of this phase?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Israel is slow to implement what was agreed upon in Taba and Washington. There is a timetable beginning 25 October and ending 31 December. During this period we will take over six cities and seven governorates. Hebron should be handed over three months later. Palestinian preparations are complete to take over full power in the West Bank. There is some reluctance and procrastination by Israel over implementing some of the points that have been agreed upon. So we demand a speedy implementation of what has been agreed upon—scrupulously and sincerely.

Poll Indicates Majority Favor Link With Jordan

TA2710171995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A public opinion poll conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reveals that three quarters of the Palestinians want some kind of link between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan in the future, while 22 percent oppose such a link. Most of the supporters prefer a confederation, with one quarter of them being in favor of the complete absorption of the Palestinians into the Hashemite Kingdom. The poll was conducted in mid-October by the Nabulus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies.

At the same time a similar survey was conducted in Jordan, where 85 percent of the interviewees expressed support for a link between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Hawatimah Urges Arab States To Lift Sanctions

LD0211204395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1525 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 1 Nov — Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed the need for Arab governments to lift the unjust sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah immediately, and not to be obliged to implement them.

Nayif Hawatimah pointed out in a press statement published in Tunis that the Arab nation from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf has paid dearly for Arab divisions. Likewise it has paid and is still paying dearly for the application by Arab governments of unjust sanctions demanding the siege of brothers under the pretext of enforcing UN resolutions, while no restrictions are imposed on the Israeli enemy for discrediting the will of the international community and violating hundreds of resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Paper: 'Arafat 'Suspect' in al-Shaqaqi Killing

JN0411184195 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 7

[Report by Khalid al-Kasasibah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, was assassinated in Malta on 29 October. Al-Shaqaqi was on his way back to Damascus from Libya, having met Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to persuade him to stop deporting the Palestinians. Al-Shaqaqi's assassination cast a heavy shadow on the region all day long on Sunday.

Al-Shaqaqi, 43, was killed as he was walking outside the hotel he was staying at. Two men on a motorbike approached him and fired five shots at him, killing him on the spot. Details of the assassination are still sketchy. Maltese security agencies could not arrest the killers, saying the assassination was carried out by professionals. Who killed Dr. al-Shaqaqi, who was very close to Iran?

Al-Shaqaqi's surprise visit to Libya was viewed by some people as a tactical mistake made by al-Shaqaqi at a time when al-Qadhdhafi is suffering international isolation and Western, particularly U.S., estrangement. Al-Qadhdhafi tried to break this isolation and end it by closing all the bases of Palestinian organizations in Tripoli and expelling the Palestinians from Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi is trying to wash his hands of the issue of terrorism which the Americans and Israelis always

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charge him with. This is especially true since al-Qadhdhafi had at one point been very enthusiastic about the idea of liberating Jerusalem through jihad. In addition, al-Qadhdhafi began to expel the Sudanese people in Libya, who total more than 300,000, thinking that this would make him appear as an opponent to the fundamentalist government of Sudan, which al-Qadhdhafi began to attack also to please the Americans.

Malta is considered a Libyan protectorate in view of its fragile security situation and the fact that many intelligence services operate freely there. In addition, its economy is mainly dependent on the Libyans, especially the tourists. Thus, it is not easy for any intelligence service — other than the Libyan service — to keep track of al-Shaqaqi's movement from Libya to Malta. This is especially true since those who are close to al-Shaqaqi say that he is very discreet about his movements and uses different passports. Al-Shaqaqi was found in possession of an original Libyan passport when he was killed, although he was using a false name, Ibrahim al-Shawish. Two days after al-Shaqaqi was killed, an announcement was made to the effect that a Libyan person had been killed. This person turned out to be Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of one of the largest movements that oppose the peace process. This movement is the second largest after the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Additionally, information made available to AL-BILAD suggests that al-Shaqaqi was planning to go to Libya in the company of Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha, leader of a Damascus- based Fatah dissident group] and Talal Naji [assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]. He, however, left Damascus for Libya on his own, leaving Abu-Musa and Naji behind. Al-Shaqaqi had to travel to Libya via Morocco, Tunisia, or Malta. He chose the latter, and the Libyan authorities were aware of this fact. He met al-Qadhdhafi, who asked him during their meeting that lasted a few minutes to issue a statement denouncing the Palestinian Authority and the peace process. Al-Qadhdhafi was not satisfied with the new course adopted by the Jihad Movement which began to move toward transforming into a political party and to stop military operations in Gaza. Al- Shaqaqi, however, refused to concede to al-Qadhdhafi's demand. Al- Qadhdhafi cut short his meeting with al-Shaqaqi, who left Libya immediately afterward. At the same time, al-Qadhdhafi gave orders to his agencies, which knew all details about al-Shaqaqi's moves, to liquidate him or to leak information on his moves to the Israeli Mosad.

Observers of al-Qadhdhafi's policies say such an action is not unfamiliar to him, noting the disappearance of Imam [Musa] al-Sadr, founder of the Amal shiite movement in Lebanon because al-Qadhdhafi thought that al-Sadr had sided with Iran against Libya.

Therefore, the information indicates that al-Qadhdhafi asked Abu- Musa and Naji to lure al-Shaqaqi into going to Libya and convinced him to meet al-Qadhdhafi in order to provide a chance to liquidate him. What confirms this information is that al-Qadhdhafi has recently refused to meet any leader of the Palestinian factions. This raises a question: Why did he agree to meet with al-Shaqaqi in particular for a few minutes, after which he gave orders to assassinate him on his way back to his base in Damascus? Al-Shaqaqi had earlier phoned his wife, who was deported by the Israeli authorities from the occupied territories to Damascus four months ago. He told her that he would be in Damascus in two days.

Al-Shaqaqi's wife was surprised to hear the news on his martyrdom from his comrades in the movement who are also suspected of being behind the assassination. Al-Shaqaqi, who was leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has faced successive splits in his movement, the most prominent of which was the split that was led by his comrade Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, who was deported with al- Shaqaqi to western al-Biqa' in southern Lebanon in 1988. This split, which occurred two years ago was announced only four months ago. There was also another split led by Muhammad Abu-Samrah, al- Shaqaqi's secretary in the movement for more than 10 years and one of the movement's leaders whom al-Shaqaqi tried to assassinate three years ago. The assassination attempt failed and the Lebanese security agencies arrested the individuals who were involved in this assassination attempt. They confessed that al-Shaqaqi planned and gave orders to assassinate Abu-Samrah.

High-ranking cadres left the movement along with Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah and Muhammad Abu-Samrah. These included a man called Tal'at, official in charge of the movement in Algeria, and another official called Ibrahim al-Dab'.

The dissensions were not new to the movement. This is because the movement itself was created by a dissension carried out by al- Shaqaqi himself against Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, the spiritual leader of the movement, who gave it the name of Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis in order to distinguish it from the al- Shaqaqi movement. Ahmad Muhanna, official in charge of the movement in Syria, and Salih 'Abd-al-'Al, official in charge of the movement in Algeria at the time, also split from al-Shaqaqi. However, they rejoined al-Tamimi. In 1991, al-Tamimi fired Muhanna who established the Hizballah Party in Palestine through support from Iran too. However, this

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Iranian support did not last for two reasons. The first is that Iran was not pleased with his performance. It claimed that he had failed in executing the tasks assigned to him by the Iranians compared with the series of successes by al-Shaqaqi, who claimed responsibility for several suicide operations in Israel, including the Bet Lid operation near Tel Aviv in which 21 Israelis were killed. The second reason is that al-Shaqaqi himself instigated the Iranians against Muhanna.

Based on this, and in light of these dissensions within the movement and the serious dissensions and differences between al- Shaqaqi on the one hand and a number of his comrades in the movement, al-Shaqaqi's comrades in the movement are accused by many people, taking into consideration the very short time in which a movement leader was elected to replace al-Shaqaqi.

Within the context of talking about differences inside the Islamic Jihad Movement, the movement's future political map is still unclear to observers despite an announcement from Damascus and by the movement that its Shura Council elected Ramadan 'Abdallah as a new secretary general to succeed al-Shaqaqi. Other information from Damascus, even though unconfirmed, indicates that the movement elected Rashad Qasim to succeed al-Shaqaqi. This is despite the fact that according to sources inside the movement, there are some who are stronger than these two people, like Bashir Nafi' who leads al-Shaqaqi's group in Gaza, as well as many other members of the movement's Shura Council. This might further complicate matters, especially since observers believe that the movement's situation will not remain as it used to under al-Shaqaqi's leadership. It is expected to move in one of two directions. The first direction would be toward an increase in differences and expansion of divisions because al-Shaqaqi is gone and many big secrets — which are not even known to those who are closest to him — have gone with him. For example, the movement's financial assets and secret investments, especially in the United States itself. These investments are registered in his own name or in his fictitious names on the passports he carried. He is said to have carried four passports — from Libya, Iran, Lebanon, and Sudan. Al-Shaqaqi continuously refused to register these assets and investments in the names of his comrades in the movement because he was afraid of dissidence against him. He knew that his power lay in his ownership of these assets and investments.

The second direction in which the movement might move after its leader was killed is toward restoring matters to normal and bringing dissidents like Abu-Samrah, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, and Muhanna back to the movement. This would be on the basis that the differences between these dissidents and the late leader were personal and were eliminated with the elimination of one of its parties, even though this issue is ruled out. What is also ruled out is the return of the entire movement — the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine — to their mother movement — the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, led by Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi. This is especially since the cadre, which leads the Jihad Movement in Palestine follows a Shiite policy and one of closeness to Iran. Meanwhile, the absolute opposite is true regarding al-Tamimi, who is known for his Sunni fundamentalist policy and his strong support for Iraq while all members of al-Shaqaqi's group are against Iraq.

The third suspect in the al-Shaqaqi killing is undoubtedly the Palestinian Authority [PA], and to be more exact one of the senior Palestinian officials who suffered greatly from Fathi al-Shaqaqi and considered that while it was easier for him to tackle his problems with Hamas and other Palestinian opposition groups because eventually they might submit to Arab pressures that could force them to sit at the negotiating table with him, al-Shaqaqi submitted to no pressure except that of Iran. The Iranians, who oppose the peace process, would not have approved of a meeting between this official and al-Shaqaqi. Therefore, al-Shaqaqi criticized this official more than once and described him as having been transformed into a spineless policeman, a demented man who releases gangs, thieves, and agents, and ex- convicts to attack the mujahidin. Al-Shaqaqi also asked the Muslim ulema to permit the spilling of the blood of this very senior Palestinian official. He rejected a demand to hand over his movement's weapons to the PA a few months ago when it ordered Palestinian organizations to surrender their weapons.

Moreover, al-Shaqaqi claimed more than one suicide operation against the Israelis, prompting this high Palestinian official to strongly attack al-Shaqaqi.

Very reliable Palestinian sources said that during a previous visit to Amman before his participation in the Amman economic summit, this Palestinian official threatened al-Shaqaqi and said that the PA would meet with all the fundamentalist organizations but that he would not allow the Iranian spies, meaning al-Shaqaqi, to exist among the Palestinians.

The sources also said that during a closed meeting with a number of PLO Executive Committee and Palestine National Council members, this official said that al-Shaqaqi was a spy in the pay of the Iranian intelligence apparatus, Savak, and that he would pound him on the head with his own shoe. Therefore, suspicions could be directed at 'Arafat himself.

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The last suspect in the operation is the Israeli intelligence apparatus, the Mosad, which might have succeeded in recruiting someone who is close to al-Shaqaqi. This agent might have provided information on al-Shaqaqi's movements in Malta which led to his subsequent assassination by the Mosad. This is a remote possibility because all Israeli officials—Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres, government spoksman Uri (Drumi), and Foreign Ministry director general Uri Savir, who participated in the Amman summit, declined to comment on Hamas and Islamic Jihad accusations against the Mosad, although they expressed happiness over the assassination.

Austria, Turkmenistan Recognize Passport

JN0511124095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Austrian and Turkmen Governments have recognized the Palestinian passport issued by the Palestinian National Authority.

The two governments have issued instructions to facilitate the entry of Palestinian passport holders into their countries.

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Algeria

Leader of Socialist Forces Front Assassinated

LD0411191595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received this news item: The security services released a statement that Mahiou M'Barek, national secretary of the Socialist Forces Front, was assassinated this morning at about 1115 at al-Mandar al-Djamil [Belvue] district in Kuba.

The same source added that the cousin of the victim, 27, who was present when the crime took place, has died of a heart attack.

May God bless the souls of the two victims and house them in his wide paradise.

Zeroual Condemns Assassination

LD0511105595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] As soon as the head of state received the news of the assassination of Socialist Forces Front [FFS] National Secretary Mahiou M'Barek, he sent a message of condolence to the FFS deputy national secretary and condemned vigorously the horrible crime which, he said, revealed once again the true nature of those who committed and devised such deeds.

They are criminals, traitors, and mercenaries who target Algeria as a whole, the head of state added.

The head of state offered his sincere condolences to the FFS militants and the family of the late Mahiou M'Barek.

FIS Condemns Killing

LD0511221995 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has just condemned the killing in Algiers yesterday of M'Barek Mahiou, national secretary of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. According to the FIS, this is a maneuver designed to deal a blow to the opposition, which is working for a global political solution.

Press Agency Official Assassinated in Algiers

LD0411223895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A cable from APS reports that Ahmed Khalfoun, director of financial resources at APS, was assassinated this evening by gunfire near his residence in Bir Khadem in the capital Algiers.

Khalfoun, 50, had been working with APS for five years. The funeral of the late Ahmed Khalfoun will take place at Bir Khadem cemetery in Algiers.

May God bless the deceased and take him to his wide paradise.

Zeroual: No Dialogue With Those Who Claim Jihad

LD0511200595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The province of Chlef was the third leg of the election campaign of Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the independent candidate in the presidential elections. He met the citizens there this morning and presented the broad lines of his program during that meeting. [Passage omitted]

[Begin Zeroual recording] You should make accountable the officials you are going to choose from now on. [Passage omitted] Brothers, it is not possible for us to hold a dialogue with some people who are claiming jihad and who claim they would convert us to Islam for the second time, while the Algerian people have been Muslims for 14 centuries. [Applause]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

HAMAS Leader on Elections, Program

MM0311154595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 95 p 6

[Interview with Mahfoud Nahnah, presidential election candidate and leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, by Amir Taheri in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taheri] Why do you think the Algerians should vote for you on 16 November?

[Nahnah] First of all, many of the Algerian people urged me — through their signatures on the candidacy forms — to run in the elections. They saw me as an alternative to the current regime, which has lost its credibility. Second, I believe that my program represents the best opportunity available to the Algerian people to rebuild their political, economic, and cultural life.

I must also remind you that I come from among the Algerian masses. I have lived in the country all my life. Fourth, I have never been involved in any manner in the policies that have inflicted great suffering on Algerian masses.

[Taheri] What are the main problems facing Algeria now? And how do you intend to tackle them?

[Nahnah] Algerians are yearning for change. But they want it to be compatible with the Algerian people's history, national identity, and beliefs. The current crisis

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is the result of the tyranny and persecution exercised by the men of the one-party state and their socialist ideology. The regime's failure at all levels has resulted in a new crisis: the violence we are experiencing today.

[Taheri] And how will you tackle that?

[Nahnah] The current regime is trying to tackle the violence through the antiterrorism law. We do not believe that this method will achieve the desired solution. The regime is behaving like a doctor who is treating the external symptoms of the disease without paying any attention to the pathogen. Confronting violence with violence only leads to expanding its circle. We must ask ourselves: Why have some groups of our society resorted to violence? Once we raise this question, the answer will be clear, hence it will be possible to diagnose the disease and prescribe the medicine.

[Taheri] Your rivals say that your stands on major issues are similar to the fundamentalists'. What is your opinion?

[Nahnah] That is unfair, because our movement is a moderate Islamic movement which does not believe in violence. It stresses moral values and adherence to them, and it renounces violence as a means to reaching or monopolizing power. Our movement recognizes democracy and promotes its principles. We are committed to accepting the will of the majority of the people in any free elections held in the country. If our movement wins the majority's confidence, the minority's views and interests will be respected. We believe in a pluralist system in which all the various parties compete to win votes on the basis of their election programs in a secure atmosphere dominated by respect, understanding, moderation, and the rule of law.

[Taheri] So you are seeking to establish a constitutional republican system.

[Nahnah] Exactly. That is the only system capable of solving our problems. Our republic is supposed to be based on the Constitution — which still has not happened. All we are demanding is that that be the case.

[Taheri] Assuming you do not win the presidential elections, would you cooperate with the winner, whoever it is?

[Nahnah] We have always pointed out that we are willing to cooperate with any government elected impartially, for the sake of the country's higher interests. As for participation in the government, we have to wait for the outcome of the elections.

[Taheri] Would you call for early parliamentary elections?

[Nahnah] Certainly. The democratic process cannot end with the presidential elections. We have all welcomed the elections as a first step toward resolving the crisis. And we also believe that parliamentary elections should be held without delay within not more than a year, for example.

[Taheri] There are numerous political forms of Islam, from Afghanistan through Iran and Sudan and ending with Algeria. Where does your movement fit into this spectrum?

[Nahnah] First of all, Islam is a religion revealed by Almighty God for all mankind. Islam can only be spread through the call [al- da'wah], dialogue, and persuasion. There is no room for intimidation, threats, or violence. "No compulsion in religion." [Koranic verse] This glorious verse has deep meanings. Anyone who does not understand this is either ignorant and so should study Islam more thoroughly, or is one of the conspirators seeking — for various reasons — to harm our religion. If you study the history of Islam, you will find that it has spread through persuasion and the strength of its arguments and logic, not through violence. Islam is spreading faster than any other religion in the world. Not only in Africa, but in the United States as well. So where is the sword in all that? Where is the intimidation and violence? A strong faith does not need to terrorize others, because it is always going to prevail and triumph in any forum, debate, or discussion. Good words are Islam's sharpest weapon. But the regrettable thing is that some organizations and government insist these days on linking Islam and violence. We reject this linkage. Because Islam is a religion of mercy, while violence is malice, economically, politically, and at the security level.

[Taheri] Would you seek to lift the ban on the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] activities?

[Nahnah] The FIS was a political party which was dissolved for political reasons and through legal procedures. The FIS leaders are required at this stage to hasten to renounce violence. What we need in Algeria at the moment is the separation of powers in order to guarantee the judiciary's independence and enable it to apply the laws outside of political considerations. We believe that it is possible to lift the ban on the outlawed political parties through dialogue and by exchanging views. There are numerous causes of the breakout of violent actions in the country. As I said, these causes go beyond current political disagreements.

We strongly reject the idea of using Islam as a cover to shed blood, the blood of Algerians and foreigners visiting the country or living among us. We must not allow anyone to use Islam as a mask behind which to

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hide violence and terrorism. We are seeking to reinforce the harmony among moderate Islamic movements in the world through this view.

[Taheri] Can you tell us of some moderate Islamic movements?

[Nahnah] Yes. The Muslim League in Pakistan, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the Islamic party in Turkey. All these movements refuse to use violence to reach power. They are working to achieve their aims through discussion and dialogue, and by setting a good example. We must realize that when moderate Islamic movements are allowed to play their part in society, advocates and supporters of violence will suffer setbacks. So a moderate Islam is a positive power for the achievement of stability, reform, and a pluralist democracy.

[Taheri] Would you work to introduce constitutional amendments to the laws which seem to conflict with the principles of Islam?

[Nahnah] The Algerian Constitution is not a secular constitution. Article 2 stipulates that Islam is the state's official religion. What we want is for this article to be translated into reality. At any rate, we would try to implement this step by step through dialogue and persuasion. Because we reject all forms of repression and tyranny.

[Taheri] What are the non-Islamic aspects you wish to change?

[Nahnah] In brief, our society needs moral refinement, economic reforms, and social justice. Algerians are Muslims. In view of the current situation, they have to reexamine all new developments in the world. There are positive developments which inspire satisfaction and negative ones which inspire concern and fear. Many issues emerge daily, and these should be studied thoroughly to ascertain whether they are good or bad. Thus we always need preaching, clarification, and guidance. We must stress that the laws which conflict with Islam should be amended or even abolished. We have urged all the presidential election candidates to adopt this position.

[Taheri] Are there specific examples of that?

[Nahnah] We can cite examples of that if we look at the economic laws which have brought nothing but misery and hardship to the people. Any law that causes misery to the people is anti-Islam, hence it should be amended or abolished.

[Taheri] As you do not wish to mention a specific example, I will do the job for you. For example, do you intend to change the tax law?

[Nahnah] We would study and examine all the laws. The tax law in Algeria encourages speculation and exploitation and offers no incentives. This law represents a heavy burden on productive forces in society. Certainly we would work to change it, for economic and moral reasons. You do not expect our movement not to touch the economic law? We must encourage investments in production and fruitful work. We must end the idea of exploiting capital and using it to make a quick profit. Algeria reached an agreement with the IMF under which debts have been rescheduled. There are duties and responsibilities which Algeria should assume in this connection, such as reducing government spending, consolidating the currency, privatizing projects, and adopting the free economy system. We have always opposed socialist measures, and we welcome any step toward breaking the restrictions on the economic system. However, we are against the savage market economy. We must not replace one extremism with another.

[Taheri] Would you abolish banks, for example?

[Nahnah] I am against abolition. However, I propose the establishment of Islamic banks to operate alongside existing banks. We would give the people's sons the opportunity to choose between these new banks and the others. We would work to offer options. We would let the people choose freely. But let me digress a little and view the issue from a wider angle. The current situation in Algeria is the outcome of the interactions among various factors over centuries. There is the period that preceded colonialism and there is also the 130 years of colonial rule. In addition to our experiences over past centuries, what people have suffered over the past three decades under a dictatorial regime has complicated the current situation in Algeria. All this cannot be overlooked. All we need now is to conduct a calm, objective study of our past march and to choose from it what is good and discard what we believe is incompatible with the nature of contemporary life.

[Taheri] Does that mean that you believe in evolution, not revolution?

[Nahnah] I believe that societies must develop according to the speed of their movement and the nature of their needs.

[Taheri] What is your opinion of the sale or banning of alcoholic drinks?

Nahnah] Islam prohibits drinking or selling alcoholic drinks. Even in this connection we are not demanding an immediate ban. The ban should be gradual and accompanied by an extensive media campaign of enlightenment and clarification.

[Taheri] Do you agree to women working?

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[Nahnah] Women are an integral part of the human experience. God created man and woman as equal. Women are entitled to organize their life, run their property, and assume part of the responsibility in the economic, political, economic, and social environment.

[Taheri] Do you agree to women working as lawyers and judges? Or as president of the republic?

[Nahnah] Yes. Without doubt. I said that women should assume their responsibilities in society. But let me explain that Islam is a living, not rigid, religion. Thus we insist that the door of interpretation should remain open, not only in the political, economic, and social spheres, but even on issues relating to Islamic jurisprudence. We also believe that it might prove difficult to implement some of the early Muslim ulemas' interpretations in our society now or in the future. This means that our society must confront its problems, find useful solutions to them, and devise its own system of interpretation in line with its needs.

[Taheri] Your rivals say that the FIS helped you to secure the required signatures needed for your candidacy, namely 75,000 signatures. What truth is there in this?

[Nahnah] Are FIS members Algerians or foreigners? Such talk will achieve nothing, and we should not indulge in it. The FIS leaders and supporters are Algerians and thus are entitled to choose whomever they want.

[Taheri] Which candidate is the closest to you?

[Nahnah] The closest candidate to me is he who serves the country's interests. The farthest is the one who does not serve the country's interests, God forbid. The closest candidate to us is the one who does not stand against his nation's history and values.

[Taheri] That is a very diplomatic answer. Can you be more specific?

[Nahnah] The voters themselves will answer that question.

[Taheri] Fine. Assuming there is a second round and you do not participate in it, who would you give your vote to? Would you vote for Said Sadi, the hero of secularism, for example?

[Nahnah] Maybe. Why not? I do not believe in leveling accusations at anyone. I make a judgment of the man himself and his program before voting. At the moment I hope I will be able to achieve victory myself.

[Taheri] Do you really believe you can achieve that? Many people say that the outcome is known beforehand, and that Liamine Zeroual will win overwhelmingly. When one looks at the election campaign carefully, there are two kinds of candidates: the first is Zeroual, the well-established statesman who deals with the main issues. The second is the other candidates, who are playing secondary roles.

[Nahnah] I do not agree with you on that. Maybe that is the impression which state-controlled television is trying to promote to the public. But the reality — away from the television screen — is something else. The people should not be insulted. They have experienced many impartial elections over the past three decades. They cannot be deceived easily. We are offering the Algerian people real alternatives and options. All the candidates have signed what we can term a charter of honor to protect the electoral process. And I promise you that I would be the first to object if I sensed any tampering with or rigging of the elections. I fear no one but God and the people, who expect candidates to be honest.

[Taheri] There is a major media campaign against you. Why?

[Nahnah] We should ask those who are launching the attack, not the ones who are attacked. I attack no one and expect the same from the others.

[Taheri] What is your opinion of the issue of using the Amazight [Berber] language?

[Nahnah] The Amazight language is part of the Algerian identity. Anyone who speaks this language is entitled to learn and use it. I personally prefer it to be written in the Arabic, not the Latin, alphabet. All Muslim peoples are entitled to safeguard their language and heritage. This includes the Amazight language. Islam is not against that at all. There should be no cultural clash among Islamic peoples — what about the one Islamic society? European nations are trying to surmount language, cultural, ethnic, and even religious barriers by joining the EU. This is the prevalent tendency in the world now. So why should we swim against the tide in our country? At any rate, Islam is capable of settling many problems, because it treats people as equal and guarantees freedoms for all.

[Taheri] Should the Amazight language be taught as a second language in Algerian schools, or should it be the language of teaching for those who speak it? The government's recent decision on this point was vague.

[Nahnah] That is true. But we should mention here that many of the Amazight heroes insist on using the French language, even when they defend their issue through the radio and television. It is ridiculous for those defending the Amazight language to avoid using the Arabic language on the pretext of safeguarding their cultural identity, when they continue at the same time

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to use the French language. At any rate, I am against building language barriers in Algeria.

[Taheri] Many Algerians believe that their current problems are the result of foreign conspiracies against them. In fact a senior intellectual published a book recently in which he said that it was former French President Francois Mitterrand who set up the FIS to take revenge on Algeria. And a press article published two days ago said that the United States is seeking to destroy Algeria because it is the only state capable of confronting U.S. schemes to take control of the world after the Soviet Union's collapse. What is your opinion of these strange views?

[Nahnah] There are plenty of people in the Islamic world who believe in the "conspiracy" theory. This theory often reflects the weakness of those who believe in it. Because laying the blame on others tend to be aimed at avoiding criticism or shouldering responsibility for one's action. This theory also reflects the weakness of the leadership's position toward the people. In the past we used to attribute all our problems to colonialism. Then the one-party state invented its own conspiracy theory, targeting and blaming France and the United States merely to dissociate itself from its mistakes. But at present there are people who attribute the violent incidents to foreign hands. It seems that everyone has forgotten the official political and economic violence committed by the one-party state against its citizens over 30 years. And some leaders of the dictatorial period pretend to be pure and have nothing to do with the disasters caused by the foreign conspiracies against the country. The conspiracy theory is preventing us from determining the truth or the source of weakness and danger, so we are actually building a barrier behind which the bitter truth is concealed. The rejection of the conspiracy theory is an indication of the public's self-confidence.

[Taheri] Do you believe the violent incidents will end after the elections?

[Nahnah] No. That will take some time. However, the election will be a step toward that aim. But will we profit from the elections to give Algerian citizens the opportunity to contribute to political life and to enable them to do so, or will we grant legitimacy to our normal practices and exploit them for personal gain? We must hasten to take political, cultural, religious, and intellectual measures to reform society.

We must also expand the foundation on which the government is based and hold parliamentary and municipal elections so that the people elect their officials at all levels in the country. The government should serve the people, not vice versa.

[Taheri] Can you actually present a complete program to rectify conditions and form a government in this difficult stage? Do you have a team working with you?

[Nahnah] First of all, I tell you that I do not believe in autocracy in political action. If elected by he Algerian people, I would rely on them all, even those who did not vote for me. If I won the elections, I would form a coalition government representing all the tendencies resulting from the election campaign. Ending violence and reducing its circle will be my top priority. And we would ask all groups of the people to contribute to helping the government, whose task is to defend their interests.

[Taheri] Can you name an Islamic model — such as Iran, Afghanistan, or Sudan — whose example you would follow?

[Nahnah] We have to set our own example by ourselves. Look at the tragedies taking place in Iran, Afghanistan, and Sudan.

[Taheri] But does that mean that the example of the three states you mentioned cannot be followed at all?

[Nahnah] Let me tell you what I would like to see in Islamic society: political pluralism, recognition of the rights and freedoms of citizens and organizations, renunciation of violence as a means to seize or monopolize power. I also want elections to be the only means to change governments.

[Taheri] Which Muslim thinkers do you believe are close to you?

[Nahnah] The Muslim Brotherhood, and then there are people like Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, 'Ali Shari'ati, Ibn-Badis, Hasan al-Banna, Abu-al-'Ala' al-Mawdudi, Muhammad Taqiyy Mudarrisi, and others.

[Taheri] Thatt is an interesting group. The people you mentioned represent conflicting tendencies.

[Nahnah] It means that I am not narrow-minded! The diversity in Islamic thought prompts me not to ignore this or that school of thought. Each thinker or writer has his own important contribution.

[Taheri] So you will not become a "Trojan horse" for the fundamentalists, as your rivals put it.

[Nahnah] If I am going to be a Trojan horse for any individual or group, I will be one for the Algerian people, to enable them to assume power and use it to achieve their legitimate dreams in line with their culture and indeed Islamic identity.

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Egypt

Military Court Continues Muslim Brotherhood Case

Arrest, Search Said 'Illegal'

NC0511063295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—The Higher Military Court today held an eight-hour session to continue hearing the first part of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood case involving 49 defendants, one of whom is at large.

The court listened to the defense of 22 defendants and moved that the defendants' arrest and search, the State Security Prosecution's warrant, and the case's referral to the court were illegal.

The Higher Military Court will hold its third session on 5 November to continue hearing the second part of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood case involving 33 defendants, including journalist Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, member of the Journalists Association Council.

The previous session was devoted to determining the defense jury for the defendants.

Further on Case

NC0511210595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—The Military Court today decided to give its verdict on the first part of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood case on Monday, 13 November. The court also decided to continue the remand of all defendants in the case, who number 48 in addition to a defendant who has fled to the United States.

The defense team today concluded its plea for 27 defendants in the case.

Meanwhile, the Higher Military Court held a session today to examine the second part of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood case, in which 33 defendants are on trial, including Press Syndicate member and journalist Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud. The court decided to adjourn until Tuesday [7 November] to bring a new defense team from the Lawyers Syndicate to replace the team that walked out of the case. The latter insisted on formal pleas similar to those they advanced in the first part of the case, which the court had previously dismissed. The defendants asked that they be excused from attending future sessions and rejected any defense lawyers other than those hired by them.

The court decided to release defendant Hilmi Mustafa Hamawi, 77 years old, in view of his old age, but ordered him to attend the next session.

Muslim Brotherhood's Mashhur Interviewed

MM0311155095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, by 'Abduh Zaynah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaynah] The number of Muslim Brotherhood candidates in the forthcoming elections has reached 150 candidates, as was previously announced. Does not this seem a large number compared to the size of the battle? Will this number drop after the announcement by the defendants in the Muslim Brotherhood cases that they will not nominate themselves for these elections?

[Mashhur] The question of nomination was left to whoever feels capable of contesting the elections in his constituency. We do not force anyone to nominate or not to nominate himself. The number of those who expressed their wish to nominate themselves has indeed reached the figure you have just mentioned. Perhaps this figure will drop slightly following the withdrawal of nomination by the brothers who are now in prison.

[Zaynah] Was the withdrawal of nomination by the defendants voluntary or the result of a decision by the Brotherhood?

[Mashhur] No. We gave them full freedom of action and we did not interfere at all in their decision, on the grounds that it is a personal matter.

[Zaynah] But was not the withdrawal of the defense panel in the first Brotherhood case also by decision of the Brotherhood?

[Mashhur] The defense panel felt that there was no court, trial, or evidence in the true legal sense, because there was no criminal case and the matter was based on a political decision, which means that it is no use [participating in it]. It was for this reason that the defense panel in this case decided to withdraw, since the trial has no legitimate grounds.

[Zaynah] What is the extent of [the Brotherhood's] coordination with the Labor Party and the Nasirite Party during the coming elections?

[Mashhur] There was coordination with the Labor Party only so that there would be no rivalry between the Labor Party and the Brotherhood candidates in one constituency, and so that they would concentrate on

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certain constituencies while we concentrate on other constituencies. But there is no such thing as an agreed program of action, as was the case in 1987. This is because the elections will be held this time on an individual basis and thus each group will have its own program and vision.

[Zaynah] It was reiterated recently that contacts have taken place between you and the ruling party with a view to coordinating your candidates in some constituencies. Is this true?

[Mashhur] We have no contacts with the ruling party. But when we learn that a prominent figure from the ruling party has been nominated in a constituency, we feel it would be better not to enter into rivalry in that constituency and to leave it aside to avoid any conflict, because it is only natural that such a figure is bound to win the interest of the government. But other than that, there is no coordination with the ruling party.

[Zaynah] In 1984, when it struck an alliance with the Wafd Party, the Muslim Brotherhood won 10 seats in the parliament, and in 1987 when it entered into a tripartite alliance with the Labor and Liberal parties, the Muslim Brotherhood won 36 seats out of the 60 seats won by the tripartite alliance.... How many seats do you expect the Muslim Brotherhood to win this time?

[Mashhur] This depends on two matters. First: the scale of public opinion's response to the Brotherhood candidates, which I believe is greater than last time. Second: to what extent the government interferes with the elections with a view to preventing the success of the Brotherhood's candidates.... The number of [Brotherhood winners] might and might not exceed their numbers on the past two occasions...only God knows what the result will be.

[Zaynah] You have talked on more than one occasion since the days of the late Guide 'Umar al-Tilmisani about your completion of a manifesto for forming a party. Why then have you not declared it, so as to win legitimacy for it?

[Mashhur] The reason behind the thought of forming a party in the days of the late 'Umar al-Tilmisani was that the elections would be held on the basis of the system of lists by the legitimate and recognized parties, and since they will not recognize the legitimacy of the Brotherhood's participation in the elections, the idea of forming a party was mooted. However, we have not formed such a party.

What prompts us now not to form a party is President Mubarak's statements that he will not permit the establishment of an Islamic political party on the grounds that approval for the formation of an Islamic party will naturally lead to the formation of a Christian political party and this will in turn lead to sectarian sedition. However, I do not think that would be true.

There is yet another reason behind our failure to form a party, namely, that the elections are being held now on an individual basis and there is no longer the condition of legitimate or official partisanship, and consequently we have the right to put forward our candidates without any impediments.

[Zaynah] At the start of the wave of detentions [of Brotherhood members], you affirmed on more than one occasion that you would not be drawn into violence and clashes. What is your present position now that the campaign of arrests has intensified?

[Mashhur] The aim behind the intensification of the campaign of arrests is to contain the Brotherhood's activities. But the eradication of the Brotherhood is impossible, because it is based on a faith, and faith lies in the hearts of everyone, and nobody, other than God, can have any sway over hearts. For this reason, the Brotherhood will not abandon their faith and will not clash with anyone. We enjoin the rebellious youth to maintain patience and avoid becoming agitated.

[Zaynah] Some people believe that the security hounding will lead to the Muslim Brotherhood's returning to underground activity. What do you think?

[Mashhur] The Brotherhood now has no clandestine activity. It had such activity some time ago when there was imperialism and there was the Palestine problem with the Zionists. So we embarked on such [clandestine] activity to provide training because training was prohibited by law at the time. We set up resistance against the Jews in Palestine and against the British in the Suez Canal zone. But now we have no clandestine organization because we operate in the open, because Islam is the official religion of the state and everyone preaches Islam.

[Zaynah] Many have stated that under the leadership of Mustafa Mashhur, the deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was nurtured in the Muslim Brotherhood's secret organization, the Brotherhood will be more rigorous than was the case under the past leaderships. What do you say to that?

[Mashhur] It is all lies, slander, and fabrications by a number of writers and newspapers. We adhere to Islam and we have no hawks and doves, as some say. Thanks be to God, we are all doves. We will not resort at all to violence against the regime.

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[Zaynah] Is Mustafa Mashhur now performing the duties of the general guide due to the old age and illness of General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr?

[Mashhur] Hamid Abu-al-Nasr is there and he has his position and prestige. Counselor al-Hudaybi and I only help him in our capacity as his deputies. We shoulder some of the duties because he cannot run all matters alone particularly given his old age. The guide has his own views and issues his own directives and abides by his duties as responsible for the Brotherhood.

[Zaynah] Do you mean that the ultimate leadership is not in the hands of Mustafa Mashhur?

[Mashhur] Not at all.

[Zaynah] Are there any differences between the leaderships of Ma'mun al-Hudaybi and Mustafa Mashhur over the question of the leadership of the Brotherhood?

[Mashhur] Some people imagine the Brotherhood to be akin to political parties whose members compete with each other over presidential positions. But in the case of the Brotherhood, responsibility is a very heavy burden, and so we try to keep away from it and not compete over it. There is nothing but love, riendship, and cooperation among us.

[Zaynah] Why has not Mustafa Mashhur nominated himself for the elections despite the fact that many leaders within the Brotherhood have done so?

[Mashhur] Everyone decides things according to his circumstances. Anyone who feels he can perform such a role should perform it. Our entry into the people's assembly is not an end in itself but a means of affirming the Brotherhood's principles. It is not necessary for us all to contest the elections. The roles are not confined to participation in the elections. Everyone has his role and he should perform it. Besides, generally speaking, I am not the parliamentary type.

[Zaynah] What are your relations with the other Egyptian Islamic groups?

[Mashhur] We have relations with many groups such as the Shari'ah Society [al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah], the Conveyance Society [Jam'iyat al-Tabligh], and the Sunnah Followers Society [Jam'iyat Ansar al-Sunnah]. Some of those agree with us on many matters and differ with us on many other matters. We do not force them to adopt our principles and our stances and we hold no animosity toward them. As to the extremist societies, we have no connection whatsoever with them. Some say that these extremist societies have issued from the Brotherhood's fold, but this should not mean that the Brotherhood should be held responsible for their actions. Some people did not like the Brotherhood's policy and so departed from it, and we on our part do not oblige them to follow its policy.

[Zaynah] What is the extent of your relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Fatah, and the [Muslim] Brotherhood of Jordan?

[Mashhur] In the fifties and sixties, some people used to visit us and we used to travel, and thus the Brotherhood's ideologies spread to many countries. This process grew further after many [Brotherhood members] were evicted from Egypt and resided in a number of Arab and foreign countries spreading the Brotherhood's thinking there and setting up Islamic societies based on the Brotherhood's ideologies. But they adapted their conditions to the prevaling conditions in the countries they settled in, though in a manner that would not conflict with true Islamic thinking.

[Zaynah] But my question concerned the existence of any direct coordination with Hamas, Fatah, or the Brotherhood of Jordan.

[Mashhur] We have never accepted the existence of the Zionist enemy, since the days of [Hasan] al-Banna [founding leader of the Muslim Brotherhood]. The Brotherhood strugglers went there [Palestine]. But conspiracies at the time aborted the holy struggle and the truce and partition [of Palestine] followed. When Hamas launched the Intifadah it did so from an Islamic outlook to fight the Zionist enemy.

[Zaynah] Some media describe Hamas as a terrorist organization.

[Mashhur] Hamas is not a terrorist organization at all, because resisting the enemy is a legitimate right. Besides, it confines its holy struggle to within the borders of Palestine and has not moved outside it.

[Zaynah] Has the Egyptian Brotherhood interceded between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority headed by 'Arafat?

[Mashhur] We told the Palestinian leadership that the Jews intend through Gaza-Jericho to make the Palestinian Authority responsible for combating Hamas and the others who are confronting the Jews. We cautioned President 'Arafat and Hamas against clashing with each other because that would be what the enemy wants.

[Zaynah] President Yasir 'Arafat has visited the Muslim Brotherhood on more than one occasion. Why was that?

[Mashhur] Let me say at the beginning that President 'Arafat had visited us more than once and that was with the knowledge of the Egyptian Government, a fact which proves that we are not a secret, proscribed,

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or dissolved society and that we are a society that is recognized on the Arab and international levels.

[Zaynah] The Egyptian Interior Ministry recently accused the Muslim Brotherhood of coordination with the Islamic Front of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan and of helping other extremist groups. What do you say to that?

[Mashhur] Al-Turabi was a Brotherhood member for some time, but he later broke away and said so personally. We have no connection with him now. But the attempts being made by the media to link us to Sudan following the attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa was a fabricated campaign intended to distort the image of the Brotherhood.

[Zaynah] What do you say about the announcement by the [Egyptian] Interior Ministry a few days ago of the seizure of a liaison center between the Brotherhood and the Jihad group in Suez?

[Mashhur] It is a navigation company which has internal and external connections. I do not believe that its owner had established any contact links with anyone. So far the point of all this is not clear.... But the government is trying to seize on any event to link us to other Islamic groups, as happened earlier at al-Minya when it arrested a Brotherhood member who had an investment project and who was said to be financially helping the relatives of the arrested members of the Islamic Group and the Jihad.

Libya

Clinton Said Using Lockerbie for Political Agenda

LD0511152195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has commented on statements made by the official White House spokesman on 3 November and the subsequent statements by the American president:

Once more, public statements [by American officials] have reaffirmed that the American policy still harbors enmity toward the great Jamahiriyah by seeking further tougher sanctions and avoiding a peaceful solution to this problem [Lockerbie]. And this is now quite clear following their reluctance to give any consideration to the efforts and initiatives made by international and regional bodies as well as a number of members of the Security Council that have been trying to find a just solution.

Reluctance to make public any evidence as the families of the victims have been demanding means that there is no evidence at all in the first place. Also, the pledge that President Clinton will never stop putting pressures on the great Jamahiriyah for as long as he is in power is an emphatic evidence that the problem has become a card in the game of the forthcoming American presidential poll.

However, the great Jamahiriyah has, out of its certitude in the rightness of its stance, accepted proposals calling for the trial of the two accused in a third country where an impartial court can guarantee justice and the rights of all parties. Consequently, it is beyond any doubt now that the goal of the American policy is not to reach a just solution but to keep the issue alive for political aims, which are known to the U.S. Administration and are obvious to everyone else.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Uganda, Sudan Dispute To End

LD0511152995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli 5 Nov — The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] today made a statement to the Jamahiriyah news agency, JANA, in which he said: I have reached an agreement with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. It is an initial pledge that ends the dispute between Uganda and Sudan and restores normal relations between the two countries.

Editor Assails UK Foreign Secretary's Remarks

LD0211164295 Tripoli JANA in English 1625 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 2 al-Harth [November], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The English intelligence radio, known as London radio, has quoted the English foreign minister as saying that Libya could improve its relations with other states if it abandoned what he called sponsoring terrorism.

JANA international affairs editor commented on that statement and said : That statement reveals that the English foreign minister's eyes are blinkered and he could not see clearly the civilizational course which the Great Jamahiriyah has adopted as a main pillar in its international relations with all the states that seek the welfare of their nations and adopt serene diplomatic dialogue as a means to tackle all issues faced.

The editor added: The new English foreign minister has to remove the blinkers from his eyes. He has to change the racial hatred policy against nations, which was the policy governing the English foreign policy in the past era, the policy of malicious crusader racism that epitomised all the evils of racial hatred and animosity, that was apparent in all statements in respect of the

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Great Jamahiriyah, and in respect of the Libyan Arab people, Arabism and Islam. He did not seek to enhance the cycle of peace, understanding and dialogue with the Libyans, but adopted the style of intransigence, misinformation, fraudulence and provoking world public opinion against the Libyan Arab people.

The editor revealed that if this minister is aware that his predecessors fell in history waste bin and that the steadfast of the Libyan Arab people remains high, that Hurd is over with no regret then that re-affirms that we are right and that we remain and survive through our steadfast , resistance and nobility which govern our rational and sober political course of dialogue and favouring the interests of nations, rather than the narrow selfish interests.

In this respect, the international affairs editor confirmed that all the nations of the world are fully convinced over the integrity of the Libyan Arab position regarding the so-called Lockerbie case, and that they support the Great Jamahiriyah at all international and regional meetings and forums, and they had expressed their belief that the Great Jamahiriyah is being taken as an escape goat, with the exception of the American and English governments, which reject the logic of dialogue and reason in solving issues between states. In fact these two governments persisted in the policy of intransigence and arrogance, which is snubbed by the logic of history as well as by all conventions and charters that govern relationships between states, as that obsolete logic does not benfit nations, but in fact pushes everyone into a dark tunnel with no end.

The editor concluded his comment by saying: We are still waiting for a new style imposed by the English foreign minister on the various aspects of English foreign policies, and whether it will eventually adopt the higher English interests or whether it will be short in this respect. That will become more and more clear through the political line followed by this minister in settling the so-called Lockerbie case, and in rapproachement with the Great Jamahiriyah people.

Morocco

King Hassan Returns From New York Hospital

LD0411143495 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this morning returned home from New York, where he participated in a special session of the UN General Assembly which was convened on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the organization.

The Ministry of Royal Household, Protocol and Decorations announces that doctors have advised his majesty to spend a period of convalescence of between two to three week, starting on the day of his majesty's return to the homeland.

Senior Officials Suspected of Drug Trafficking

BR0311153495 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Erich Inciyan: "Confidential Report Implicates Moroccan Powers in Hashish Trafficking"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A confidential report sent to the EU in 1994 by an independent research body, the Geopolitical Drugs Observatory [OGD], stressed: "Morocco has become, in just a few years, the world's leading exporter of hashish in the world and the leading supplier to the European market. It has acquired this position through discretion and the apparent indifference of the governments of friendly countries. Senior international authorities (led by the IMF) are only concerned by this development insofar as it rebalances the national accounts." Criticizing the complicity obtained by the traffickers in Morocco and even in "the senior echelons of power," this report — and we checked its authenticity and we have a copy of it — was recently leaked from Brussels to the Moroccan opposition.

The document states: "The political desire [expressed by Hassan II when he declared a "war on drugs" in autumn 1992 — LE MONDE editor's note] to attack drugs seems simply to be paying lip service to maintain the country's image." Contrary to Rabat's version of events, the OGD claims, "the development of international trade in Moroccan hashish is not just down to the European traffickers who followed the hippies to Morocco in the 1970s." The trafficking organization is "highly hierarchical" and is based on "at least 200,000 farmers" in the north of the country. At the top are the "principals, the drugs barons who manage, fund and, control, through their intermediaries, the whole commercialization process."

Corruption provides the trafficking networks with the support of "protectors, who are associated with the trafficking at all levels, from the humblest customs officer to advisers to the palace, passing via all the echelons of central administration, local administration, political organizations, and elected institutions. None of the networks that have managed to gain real economic and political weight could have done so without the help of the authorities."

If we are to believe the report: "Senior representatives and people close to power," who appear "both as protectors and principals," are involved in the cannabis exporting process. Former Gover r of Tangiers Karim

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Laalj is said to have played "a key role in structuring the trafficking networks" before he was removed, at the start of the "drugs wars," and appointed head of national social security.

Among the suspected "leading protectors" of the trafficking networks, the first version of the report dating from February 1994, lists a string of leading figures "drawn up in order of political importance."

Two members of the royal family are mentioned — a son-in-law and a cousin — along with two former ministers, and a deputy who is now a minister. It also includes the names of a series of presidents of local chambers of commerce and industry, company managers, mayors, and deputies. However, when it received the report the EU requested a more watered down version in which the names of the leading figures — who had never been found guilty of the crimes — had been removed. However, the report does state that "the efficient coverage of the whole country by the administration prevents any other power from taking control." It also stresses the key role that is played by drugs trafficking in the national economy.

Concentrated in the Rif region in the north of the country, the report stated that the monoculture of kif — the cannabis plant — covered between 64,000 and 73,000 hectares in 1993. It estimated that this surface area has "multiplied tenfold in the space of 10 years." In the autumn of 1992, Hassan II suggested that 50,000 hectares were being farmed for kif.

The Example of Colombia

The report goes on: "Morocco is capable of producing more than 1,000 tonnes of hashish for export each year." Interpol revealed that enforcement departments had managed to seize 142 tonnes of Moroccan cannabis in 1993 worldwide.

"The most favored way of concealing the drugs intended for export" is the conversion of private or commercial vehicles by a number of specialist garages. Mechanics build caches designed to escape detection by the customs officials and sniffer dogs, while at the same time reducing the weight of the chassis and bodywork by the weight of the drugs to be transported.

Drugs therefore circulate in "small" amounts — a few dozen kilograms — when they are hidden in the bodywork of a vehicle or in caches built by specialist garages. Trucks, generally belonging to European companies, can carry cargoes in excess of a tonne. The report claims: "Revenue from cannabis derivatives is the country's leading source of foreign income." This contradicts the official line which claims that the 1.2 million Moroccan workers abroad are the country's leading source of foreign income (2 billion French francs).

The study was presented in 1994 but the OGD claims that its conclusions are still valid. It notes: "After more than a year of the 'war against drugs,' there is nothing to suggest that trafficking is falling." The document also expressed the concern at the development of the trafficking in hard drugs via Morocco: "There is no attempt to crack down on hard drugs trafficking and the problem is being ignored by the authorities. We should bear in mind how things developed in Colombia, where coming down hard on the cannabis growers simply led to a reconversion to cocaine trafficking, and finally led to the farming of the opium poppy. The agronomic and climatic conditions of the Rif area are such that this course is perfectly possible there, too."

Sudan

Fighting Continues With 'Ugandan-Backed Rebels'

AB0311203595 Paris AFP in English
1338 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Nov 3 (AFP) — Fighting is still raging in southern Sudan between government troops and Ugandan-backed rebels, an official spokesman said Friday [3 November].

Army spokesman General Mohammed Abdel Qadir Idris had said on Tuesday that government troops had "taken control" of the situation.

But he was quoted in the state run AL-ENGA AL-WATANI paper on Friday saying that "military operations in Farajuk and Magwi areas are still continuing between our forces and the remnants of the rebel movement.

The Sudanese Army's general command accused Uganda of sending an army division with tanks and armored vehicles to back the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in an attack on Farajuk and Magwi.

The SPLA, the main southern rebel group, denied Ugandan help in the attack, adding that it took Farajuk in a counter offensive to prevent the taking of Nimule, its main base near the Ugandan border.

Kampala has also denied Khartoum's accusations that it was involved.

Idris also said there could be a link between the offensive and the current visit by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to Sudan's foe Egypt.

"The visit could be for further coordination of backing the (Sudanese) rebel movement which has become a tool for those attacking Sudan," Idris said.

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He said the Sudanese government Armed Forces are in "a state of maximum alert to deter the aggression and defend Sudanese territory."

Uganda broke diplomatic relations with Sudan in April, while Egypt accuses the Islamist government in Khartoum of involvement in an assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak.

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GCC Ministers Begin 57th Meeting in Muscat

JN0411155495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 4 Nov (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states began their 57th ministerial meeting at the al-Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat at noon today to prepare for the 16th summit of the GCC states which is due to be held in Muscat in December. Also, the members of the financial and economic cooperation committee and the permanent ministerial committee for oil cooperation participated in the opening session of the ministerial meeting.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah opened the meeting, Bahrain being the current chairman of the GCC. In his opening speech, the Bahraini foreign minister said that the objective of this meeting is included in the decision of the 54th meeting of the Ministerial Council; namely, to conduct a comprehensive review of the overall economic relations between the GCC and the international economic groups, as well as to prepare a new mechanism for the talks between the GCC states and these countries or groups.

The Bahraini foreign minister added that this meeting is also important because it is expected to discuss the results of the coordination and cooperation, which we have realized with these countries and economic groups, particularly the European Union [EU], adding that we have a framework agreement with the EU states since 1988.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said: If we review the course of the GCC relations with these countries and groups, particularly in the economic fields, we will certainly find that there are many difficulties on the path of coordination and cooperation through which we hope to achieve the joint objectives within a framework of equality and balanced interests.

In his speech, the Bahraini minister called on the GCC states to assess and review the course of the existing cooperation and coordination among them since the establishment of the council. He also called on the GCC states to search for the reasons and justifications that would prevent other countries and groups from achieving the sought coordination and cooperation with the GCC states.

The Bahraini foreign minister noted the tripartite meeting between the GCC the EU member states which was held in Granada, Spain last July. He said it provided a good opportunity for frank talk on the means of coordination and cooperation between the two parties, particularly in the economic fields.

He added that in light of the results of that meeting, we hope that today's meeting will provide a good opportunity for us to exchange viewpoints on the obstacles hindering coordination and cooperation and to set the proper and effective mechanism for negotiations with other states and economic groupings to ensure our interests first and achieve common benefits for us and for our partners.

Urge Congress To Rethink Embassy Bill

JN0511150795 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Nov 95

["Text" of statement issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, GCC, at the end of its 57th meeting in Muscat on 5 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] The GCC Ministerial Council discussed in its 57th meeting — the preparatory meeting — which was held in the Sultanate of Oman on 5 November 1995, the U.S. Congress vote, in October, on a bill recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and stipulating the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by the end of May 1999.

Within this framework, the council expresses its deep concern over this unjustified step, which comes at an important stage in the Middle East peace process and which constitutes a serious threat to the peace process. Also, this step conflicts with the Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem and the Middle East issue, as well as with the Palestinian-Israeli agreements which adjourn the issue of Jerusalem to the final status negotiations due to the sensitivity and importance of the issue on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

As the GCC Ministerial Council praises the positive and constructive stand adopted by the administration of President Clinton vis-a-vis this bill, it expresses its hope that the Congress will reconsider this decision due to its extreme negative effect on the peace process and because it violates the international legitimacy resolutions and greatly undermines the efforts of the United States as the cosponsor of the peace process.

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Saddam Addresses Message to State Officials

JN0511211995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Announcer-read message by President Saddam Husayn to senior state officials on 5 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother men and women of the state, the special pillars of the state — the under secretaries, governors, holders of the special ranks, and general directors and those who have similar ranks: Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

I speak to you today to address, together with your titles, your feeling of patriotism. Throughout the march of your great people, that patriotism of yours proved that it is firm and that it has great historic roots in the splendid civilizations of your people, who are a living part of a glorious nation which, when in a state of awakening, covers with its benefits and brightness a great part of the world, and not only itself.

I address you today, prompted by the lively spirit and desire to serve your people which I sensed on the day of the meeting [with senior state officials on 1 November] to ask you to help me in certain matters — which I consider the mainstay of the state, the title for its capability and development, and the shelter for every move forward — in order to return to the correct path and find the ideal meaning whenever he who embarks on tackling such matters finds that he has lost the way, or fears that he may lose the way, or hesitates in telling what is right and what is wrong in a matter that is presented for him to decide on.

The great principles which the Iraqis believe in must have well-known shelters so that any action taken on their basis becomes clearer and so that duties, commitments, and rights become more specific in terms of application and motion. The application of law, after understanding it very well, constitutes the ropes and columns supporting the big tent of these principles. The application of law also sets the guidelines — the discussion of which will not harm the society and its great state. It would also ensure that any step which is supposed to be a step forward will not become a step backward.

On the basis of these meanings, I have always believed that respect for, and abiding by the law is the correct way to arrive at our goals, when the Ba'th Party is the leader of the march. This is because the Ba'th Party can express the will of the people through law, and not though a way that contradicts or opposes law. Even when any of the laws has become obsolete, the way to avoid such a law must be lawful; that is by replacing it with a new law.

On the basis of this understanding, we said that the law is the child of life, and at the same time, the commander of life. By doing this — that is, by implementing the law — we would be doing a great service to the great principles without making anyone lose any of his legitimate and inalienable rights.

In this message, I mention things that refer to the great Ba'th Party, although I address your sense of patriotism, knowing that some of you are not affiliated with the party.

I would like to say that I do not see any conflict between someone in our great people, who is independent in his political thoughts in general or in his party affiliation in particular and someone believing, at the same time, in the major Ba'th Party principles, particularly in its strategic goals of unity, freedom, and socialism. What applies in this regard to independents and non-Ba'thist citizens also applies to the citizens affiliated with certain parties other than the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The difference is clear even between a mere member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and a genuine Ba'thist, who is the son of great Iraq and the glorious nation, who is ready to sacrifice for the sake of the people and the nation, and who is deeply involved in reviving the nation's role and spirit and in reviving great Iraq's role and spirit.

In light of this, these meanings have become our tent and our umbrella and the Ba'th Party has become a shield for us, a torch of freedom in our hands, and a sword for us in times of difficulty. Proceeding from this concept, I told our great people in the early seventies that every citizen who is honest to his homeland and who does not deliberately oppose the July revolution is a Ba'thist in his own way though he is not a member, and I told the Ba'thists: Love your people and you will be Ba'thists. I also said several times that there are Ba'thists among the citizens and that there are non-Ba'thists among the ranks of the Ba'th Party. In light of these broad concepts rather than any other vision with a narrow horizon, course, and goals, you have defined your position. You said yes to your leadership and its policy on the Great March Day. You also rejected on this day and other days all the conspiracies, intrigues, and a call for accepting humiliation, weakness, and the absence of the role and the cause.

I once again say to you and through you men and women that we have addressed you before by addressing your great people and we also addressed you many times through the ministers of your ministries whenever we met them on any occasion or at the Council of Ministers

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regarding your duties toward your people. But today, after the day of the meeting, we address you directly and comprehensively over everything within your scope of action and not over a certain sector in the state, as we have sometimes done in the past when necessary.

We address you to tell you that you have to respect the law in your work and to completely abide by it even if any minister demands the opposite from you. You also have to open the eyes of any one demanding the opposite on any level of responsibility. If any official with a higher position of responsibility insists on an opinion that violates the law or central orders, request that his order to you be made in writing and through an official letter, so that he would be held responsible for that order before the law. If you find something in his order that is serious and destructive for the principles of honest and fair public service for the people and the state, you should insist on doing what is available to convey your word to the higher authorities, be that through the party or directly.

While calling for respecting the law and implementing it honestly and fairly, we call for equality among citizens in all areas, regardless of any consideration. With respect to those coming ahead of others thanks to their known contribution to the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah battle [1980-1988 war with Iran] or the immortal Mother of Battles, everything is clear in the central instructions and laws, with which you must comply enthusiastically and implement accurately and seriously.

When we call for equality in rights and duties in accordance with the law, you may recall some condemned phenomenons to which we had referred earlier at the Council of Ministers. However, regrettably, those phenomenons have not been tackled as they should have been, neither by all ministers, nor by all those with lower ranks in the hierarchy of responsibility. By that we mean some key figures and people with ties of kinship with this or that official, whom they approach for special requests or favoritism through their direct posts or through other means. Some of those means could be known, while others may not be discovered instantly. Such persons make requests or seek special treatment to attain benefits, conduct business, or acquire facilities that are either illegal or do not apply to them under the followed standards or bases. They may even violate the law and central instructions and may not be held accountable for their actions. Sometimes, even if they are held accountable, that does not take place in accordance with law and justice.

Brothers, it is time I addressed you in this way through this message, not in accordance with what I hoped the concerned ministers would convey to you, urge you to follow, and to hold you accountable for. It is high time I told you with the explicitness you know me for that whoever deviates from the law and central instructions in favor of an illegitimate and illegal wish for this or that key figure, their relatives, or those using their influence will make it possible for one to say that such a person is either weak, cowardly, or an accomplice in partnership or exchange of interests with others. A person who can be described this way is not fit to belong to the great principles of our people, the people of al-Qadisiyah, Mother of Battles, and their high banners. Unless they make amendments, then the least that can be said about such persons is that they are unfit for responsibility and for the departments of a state with great principles marching ahead along the sound path with the help of God.

What I know about you is that you are immunized by your principles, and that you are brave and faithful to your people. Those of you who wish to be described as such should be motivated by nothing but justice, and let anything other than that go to hell.

After our great people, we rely on you and your support and that of your ministers. We urge you to comply with our instructions so that each one within our march would work in accordance with the law and justice. Then, there will be no question about anybody's work and service. On God we rely, and from Him we beseech success. God is great.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn 12 Jumada al-Akhirah 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 5 November 1995.

Claimant to Throne: Saddam's Days 'Numbered'

JN0411175595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali Ibn-al-Husayn, the younger son of the aunt of King Faysal II, who was deposed in a coup in 1958, has said that Saddam Husayn's days are numbered and that the Iraqis are ready for change.

Al-Sharif 'Ali expects this change to take place next year and says that he is convinced that he will then be the new king of Iraq. The claimant to the Iraqi throne, who resides in London, stated that the royal family, which remained outside the limelight for a long time, has decided to enter the political scene after it has received demands to this effect following the Gulf War.

Husayn Kamil Group To Form Salvation Council

JN0411174595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to General Husayn Kamil Hasan in Ammar say that a higher

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council for the salvation of Iraq will shortly be formed. The council will work for a peaceful change of the Iraqi regime. The sources also said that an information office will shortly be formed under the management of Sabah Salman, an Iraqi opposition figure in exile who worked in the past as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's press secretary.

Mish'an al-Juburi, a close associate of Husayn Kamil Hasan, sheds more light on this council and on his recent visit to Damascus:

[Begin recording] [Al-Juburi] We have reached a decision to form a higher council of national salvation composed of Iraqi patriotic and political figures outside Iraq and also from inside Iraq, whose names will not announced because of security considerations. We also confirm that a committee has been formed, which has been active for more than two months. The committee is preparing a political program including a comprehensive stand on Iraq's future conditions, emphasizing parliamentary and constitutional life, freedom of parties, elected parliament, and peaceful transfer of power. Let bygones be bygones. We hope that the change will be effected peacefully, that others understand our real purpose, that the process of change has become indispensable to save our people from their impasse and ordeal. We are very careful to see that not a drop of Iraqi blood will be shed during the process of change.

[Radio correspondent Ghassan 'Abd-al-Khaliq] What about your recent visit to Damascus in the company of the general [Husayn Kamil?]

[Al-Juburi] First of all, the general did not visit Damascus. Those who visited Damascus were Mish'an al-Juburi and Salah 'Umar al-'Ali. I paid two visits over the past 10 days and Mr. al-'Ali paid one visit, or to be more exact it was a joint visit by me and Mr. al-'Ali. We told our Syrian brothers of our concept of Iraq's future and we heard their great concern for Iraq's unity. The Syrian brothers give a red light to any attempt to disturb the unity of Iraq.

Measures Said Tightened on Syrian Border

NC0411162095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi regime's authorities have ordered the border security agencies to tighten their control of the Iraqi-Syrian borders. In its issue today, the weekly Al-ITTIHAD reported that it obtained reliable information from well-informed sources that seven Iraqi officers of various ranks and 42 soldiers deserted to Syria in November. The border security agencies in the Mosul and al-Ramadi Governorates received strict orders to tighten their control of the Syrian borders as increasing numbers of military personnel are fleeing the atrocities of the regime in Iraq.

KDP Gunmen Attack Villagers; No Casualties

NC0411162695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gunmen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] located in (Kulana Patan) opened medium-caliber machine gunfire on citizens in the village of (Pashasaka). Fortunately, there were no casualties.

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Peres: 'Peace More Important' Than Election Win

BR0311152895 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Bart Beirlant: "'Peace More Important Than Winning Elections' — Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Defends Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — A peace agreement between Israel and Syria before the Israeli elections in November next year is possible, in the view of the Israeli Government. It is true that distrust of Syria and opposition to handing back the Golan Heights are widespread in the Israeli population, but for the ruling Labor Party achieving peace is more important than winning elections.

"A moral choice," is how Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the peace policy of the Israeli Government yesterday. He was speaking during a meeting in Jerusalem with the Forum of Jewish Organizations association, MPs Leo Delcroix (CVP [Christian People's Party]), Tuur Van Wallendael (SP [Flemish-speaking Socialist Party]), and Rik Daems (VLD [Flemish Liberal Democrats]), and a number of Belgian journalists.

Peres said that the new wind in the Near East had been very clear at the recent regional economic conference in Amman. "The competition between the countries in the region mainly had a negative character. For the first time this rivalry took place in a constructive manner; Institutions were set up in order to direct this constructive mood in the right direction," he said.

Among Arab neighboring countries there is a fear that Israel will dominate the Near East economically, but Peres said that was not Israel's intention. "A modern economy is not based on dominance but on competition," he said. The peace process is already benefitting Israel economically. Despite the annual immigration of an average 70,000 Jews in recent years, employment fell from 11.2 percent in 1992 to 6.2 percent in 1995.

But the peace agreements with the PLO and Jordan were not motivated firstly by economic reasons. "It is a moral choice, and the economy supports this choice," he said. According to Peres this government was doing what it had to do. According to him that was more important than possible losses during the parliamentary elections, as polls are predicting. A self-assured Peres compared the polls with perfume. "It is nice to smell but dangerous to swallow."

Peres ruled out calling early elections to then possibly make peace with Syria. "The agenda must be determined by what is good for the country, not what is good for the party," he said. Peres is convinced that the peace process is good for Israel. "In my view, without the Gaza Strip — an area where the Palestinians now have autonomy — Israel is stronger and more clearly Israeli. The same applies to Jericho and Nabulus — on the West Bank. Those are Arab towns."

When asked whether this applied to the Golan Heights as well, Peres answered: "Yes, because the problem of the Golan is whether you have peace or not. What is more important, a mountain or peace?" Peres dismissed scornfully the criticism of the opposition Likud party. "It negotiates only with itself."

But no compromise was possible on Jerusalem. "Jerusalem is a unified city, and will remain the capital of Israel, with respect for the needs of the three religions — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Jerusalem was never an Arab or Palestinian capital. Jerusalem is closed on the political level but open on the religious level."

Mosad Decisionmaking on Assassinations Viewed

TA0311160795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Nov 95 pp 8, 9

[Article by Ron Miberg: "This Is How Hit Men Operate"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The massacre of the Israeli athletes in Munich in 1972 and the relentless fight against terror in Israel and around the world forced a new reality on the Israeli state. According to foreign publications, Prime Minister Golda Meir's vow that all those responsible for the Munich murders would be punished (namely, assassinated) compelled the Mosad to expand the structure of its hit teams. The Mosad reportedly operated three to five hit teams at the peak of the pursuit of the mastermind and perpetrators of Munich.

Contrary to many secret services around the world which are usually divided into two to three departments, foreign publications claim that the Mosad's structure is unique. It consists of five departments, three of which are very significant.

According to foreign publications, "Tzomet" is the department in charge of field work and intelligence gathering in the Arab world, "Tevel" is Israel's foreign ministry for intelligence affairs in charge of maintaining working relations with other secret services around the world, while a special intelligence department was created in the wake of the intelligence fiasco and the lessons of the Yom Kippur War.

Although each hit team was upgraded and reorganized, its internal structure remained basically unchanged and

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consisted of logistic support, pre-operation intelligence, cover, back-up, clean-up, and escape.

A typical hit team consists of 10 to 15 agents, led by two agents whose training and psychological profile ensured that they would not hesitate to pull the trigger when necessary and that they would do so with the same blind obedience as a soldier obeys orders in combat. [passage omitted]

Books written about the Mosad describe a secret service aware of the formidable responsibility entrusted to it. A section was set up in the Mosad to oversee these special operations. Each operation stands on its own.

In terms of pure operational logic, it has to be that way. Seeing that there is no room for mistakes, each assassination required weeks of planning; each team had to build a cover story, prepare safe houses, and study the movements, lifestyle, and security of its target down to the most minute detail. Only then could they choose a "modus operandi," which would be sent to Tel Aviv for approval. The team was put together according to the requirements in the field and extended logistical support.

In the case of Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination in Malta, Israel somewhat retreated from its position of total deniability. It looked as if Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres did not succeed — or perhaps did not want — to deny the Mosad's possible involvement. The fact that there was no immediate denial lends an important political dimension to the operation.

The Mosad does not lack for volunteers, and classic candidates are graduates of elite army units. The Mosad is not in the habit of holding "soul-baring sessions" or conducting philosophical debates about the essence of life and the moral license to assassinate.

Assassinations such as that of al-Shaqaqi are a complicated logistical and intelligence operation. The team must tackle a series of problems: false identities, safe houses, vehicles, plane or ship tickets, smuggling weapons into Malta (in the past secret services would use the diplomatic pouch), moving in the field under the nose of the local authorities, pinpoint intelligence, the assassination itself, and escape routes.

From the operational point of view, as it appears in a profile of Malta in the CIA's World Factbook, the advantage of this small island is that it is the CIA's foremost observation post of al-Qadhdhafi's Libya. It is said that half the inhabitants of Malta are CIA agents, while the other half are counteragents. In this unruly situation, which is reminiscent of Cyprus in the days preceding Israel's recognition of the PLO, it is relatively easy for a hit team to get in and out.

Malta is a notorious hornets' nest. One speculation has it that the bomb that blew up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie came from Malta. The Maltese authorities are aware of the island's special status, which explains why the assassination in broad daylight did not arouse the usual hue and cry that would have been made by any other sovereign state if it were chosen by a foreign service as a place to settle its accounts.

Had al-Shaqaqi's assassination been perpetrated by Israel, it would have called for a series of events whose high point would have been the execution itself. Here are the events in chronological order:

The intelligence level proposes to the political echelon to mark the target as a dead man: The proposal stems from a desire to settle scores, but includes operational considerations (hurting the organization's performance) since such an assassination cannot only be an act of revenge. The argument used to justify it is that a successful and unpredictable assassination will leave the terrorist organization headed by the target confused, without a suitable successor, will lead to a temporary retreat, and hurt its activities. Israel's failure to catch Yahya 'Ayyash, alias "The Engineer," gave him time to train other "engineers" and foster a new generation of terrorists.

The political level can hardly refuse such an offer, especially in light of the fatal bombings, and asks for an action plan.

From this point on a network is laid out for acquiring intelligence, which can take weeks or months.

When the intelligence level has obtained solid information and a good opportunity presents itself, it submits its plan to the political echelon — or not. The political echelon immediately reiterates its approval — or not — after checking the political timing and assessing possible mishaps in the execution.

The words "or not" mean that the situation might change according to circumstances. The man who gave the order and approval to assassinate Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] probably did not give much thought to the political aspect of the assassination when the opportunity arose to carry it out. Such second thoughts would have revealed that except for a moral blow and settling a long bloody score, his assassination did not result in any great strategic or political advantage.

The approval sets the operation into high gear. According to foreign publications, carrying it out requires a hit team (for example, two motorcyclists and a back-up), an escape team, and an additional relatively large group — in the case of Malta, in order to get off the island as quickly and quietly as possible.

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In order to achieve a clean execution, the team needs accurate information from al-Shaqaqi's immediate vicinity. If al-Shaqaqi was a long-term target it is to be assumed that, among other things, there was a source who reported on his movements. This was not the first time that al-Shaqaqi was in Malta on his way to and from Libya, and some of the intelligence data would have consisted of regular monitoring of his movements.

In principle, if foreign reports are true that the Mosad did the job (in this context, the Mosad would be a group out of dozens of people required for such an operation), then the main consideration behind the assassination — even if this did not come up in the staff deliberations — was internal Israeli politics.

Leaving aside the score-settling and the problems involved in the execution, al-Shaqaqi was the first assassination of the 1996 election campaign. We are talking about a decisive factor in the 1996 elections, which will be the Israeli public's reaction to terrorist attacks. One simplistic prediction has it that the current government will get a mandate to pursue the peace process "if there are no more terrorist attacks," never mind the fact that al-Shaqaqi's assassination invites terror attacks. The most complicated question facing the people in the political echelon who approved the operation is: Will a terror attack in the wake of al-Shaqaqi's assassination lead to a wave of antigovernment public sentiment or, on the contrary, will it make the people rally around the government? This is the big gamble behind the approval of the operation. [passage omitted]

Israel still considers assassinations a legitimate weapon in its war against terror. The broad battlefront it fought with the PLO has been reduced to the rejectionist organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. The Mosad has gone back to its early values, set by the late Yehoshafat Harkavi in the mid-1950's. Every prominent Palestinian leader who organizes terror operations against Israel knows that he must be surrounded by security men at all times and that his life, just as the lives of the young men he sends out on missions, is constantly in danger. If Fathi al-Shaqaqi knew that, he apparently did not act properly and did not take the necessary precautions.

CIA analysts give the highest marks to the Israeli achievements. The number of large international terror attacks perpetrated by Palestinians decreased significantly after peaking in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The recognition of the PLO reduced their incentive, and there are economic, social, and political reasons as well. But, there are also professional and matter-of-fact reasons: The terrorists declared war on society and lost. The CIA believes they lost mainly because of the excellent qualities of the Israeli Mosad. As a result of its special experience, the Mosad was the first secret service in the world that properly recognized the threat these people posed to democracy everywhere and was the first who learned how to fight it. The war is merciless, but Israel's enemies do not want it otherwise.

Council Announces Freeze on All Protest Actions

TA0511100195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has announced that it is freezing all protest activities against the political process. Its spokesman noted that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has revoked its objection to the population census.

Shahaq Reprimands OC Northern Command, Others

TA0511092195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Alon Pinkas and David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chief of General Staff [CGS] Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq has reprimanded four senior officers, including OC [Officer Commanding] Northern Command Maj.-Gen. 'Amiram Levin, for inadequately enforcing orders governing operational movements in south Lebanon, in connection with two incidents last month in which nine soldiers were killed and seven wounded.

Aside from Levin, the three other officers to be reprimanded are the commander of the Lebanon liaison unit, Brig.-Gen. Giyora 'Inbar, the commander of the territorial brigade in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon (a colonel), and the Golani battalion commander (a lieutenant-colonel).

The reprimands follow the final investigation of the incidents on October 12 and 15, in which three and six soldiers were killed, respectively.

In his conclusions, Shahaq implicitly criticizes the entire command chain of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces in southern Lebanon for both the enforcement of operational movement orders and for judgment errors concerning the use of an armored personnel carrier inadequately protected against roadside bombs and mines (in the second incident) and the force's operational employment (in the first incident).

Another matter mentioned by the CGS related to the deployment of forces during the night. No vehicle or unit, however small, may now travel at night unless

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it has been authorized by senior commanders and approved by even higher echelons in the Northern Command.

Levin had insisted he be reprimanded when he found out that Shahaq intended to issue reprimands to other officers.

According to a senior Northern Command source, Levin told Shahaq that he has "overall ministerial responsibility over everything and anything" in his command jurisdiction, and that if reprimands are issued, he should also receive one. Shahaq obliged. [passage omitted]

Nava Arad To Fill Labor Knesset Position

TA0511082795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Gabi Brunn]

[FBIS Translated Text] The opening in the Labor faction at the Knesset created by the assassination of the prime minister will be filled by Nava Arad.

Nava Arad has served as the prime minister's adviser on women's rights.

Nava Arad was a member on the Labor list in the 12th Knesset.

Budget Passes First Knesset Reading

TA0211162195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 1996 budget easily passed first reading in the Knesset yesterday, 55-45 with three abstentions. It now goes to the Finance Committee for preparation for second and third readings on December 22.

The vote concluded three days of debate, which, despite most predictions, was one of the calmest on a budget in recent memory.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat conducted last-minute meetings with opposition and Arab parties in an attempt to mobilize greater support. In the plenum, however, he rejected opposition claims of having "given in to Arab blackmail."

In his meeting with the Arab Democratic Party and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Shohat promised to establish a team to review the Property Tax Law, which the Arab MKs [Knesset members] want to abolish for inherited property. The two parties voted with the opposition, while Arab MKs from Labor voted with the government.

Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi and Yosef Ba-Gad abstained, as did United Torah Judaism's Avraham Ravitz.

Labor's Shmu'el Avital voted against the coalition, citing a lack of funding for moshavim and towns in outlying areas.

The Moledet MKs said their abstention provided a "safety net" for the budget to pass, thus preventing the government from "having to give in to Arab demands."

The vote led coalition chairman Ra'anan Kohen to say: "The era of political blackmailing for funds is over."

Later, Shohat told reporters: "I am very satisfied with the results and believe the budget will pass second and third readings with no changes. I came to the Knesset with good economic results and the correct economic policy, and there is no reason not to support the budget. This year has been relatively quiet. All in all, the opposition can't argue with the economic results.

"Also the coalition turned out in full. I am disappointed by the Arab parties. For three years, we've carried out a policy of correcting their situation in fields like education, child benefit, etc. I promised to examine their requests, but unfortunately their vote against the budget was made with an eye on their electorate, instead of telling it about this government's policy of changing the situation that has existed for decades."

"Somebody had to do something about the situation in the moshavim," Avital said. "Nothing has come out of all the talk by the prime minister and finance minister in recent months.

"Shohat said he presented a budget which will satisfy 97 percent of the population; I represent the other 3 percent. Shohat had time to be friendly with 'Abd-al Wahhab Darawshah, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Ze'evi, but not for me."

Kohen and the head of the Knesset social caucus, Rafi Elul (Labor), strongly condemned Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, who was absent from the debate.

"Netanyahu would rather be in the US selling his book than attend the debate and vote on something as important to the country as its budget and economy," said Kohen. "He's just belittling the Knesset."

Ari'el Weinstein (Likud), who had initially promised to support the coalition, called on his party to vote in favor of the budget in its next readings. "Blackmail will only destroy the economy," he said.

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Poll: Left Wing To Keep Strength in Election

TA0111094095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Nov 95 p 19

[Report by Yo'av Limor]

[FBIS Translated Text] The left-wing parties will maintain their strength in the next general elections, according to a public opinion poll ordered recently by Meretz.

In the poll, carried out by the Hope Institute, over 3,000 Jews and Arabs were asked which party they will vote for in the next elections. The results show that Labor will win 42 seats (compared to 44 in the current Knesset), Meretz will get 11 seats (12 in the current Knesset), and the Arab parties will receive four seats (five in the current Knesset). The left-wing bloc will have a total of 57 seats, the right wing will have 55 seats, and eight seats will be controlled by "undecided" voters, according to the poll.

West Bank, Gaza Closed; Redeployment Suspended

TA0511054995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The West Bank and Gaza Strip have been sealed off until further notice, except for humanitarian cases and the transfer of agricultural produce to and from the Gaza Strip.

The army has suspended aspects of the redeployment plan today and tomorrow.

Military Supplies Deal Signed With Sri Lanka

TA3110103895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will sell Sri Lanka IAI-made [Israel Aircraft Industries] Kfir jet fighters which have been phased out by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The State Department consented to the sale of the jets, which carry a U.S.-made engine. The permit was given to Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri when he visited Washington last week. The United States asked to be updated on the details of the deal.

According to foreign reports quoting sources in Sri Lanka, the deal will also include new Dvora class patrol boats which are designed to replace similar boats sunk by the Tamil rebels. The Sri Lankan Government asked Israel to extend it credit to finance the deal, but the decision was postponed until the United States consented to the sale of the Kfirs. The Defense and Foreign Ministries will soon discuss ways to finance the deal.

Colombo requested military assistance from Israel after the fighting with the Tamil rebels resumed in April this year. The request was submitted through the Sri Lankan Embassy in the United States, which proposed to resume contacts with Israel in exchange for the delivery of the weapons. Israel acceded to the military purchases, but is not seeking the resumption of relations at the moment.

Sri Lanka explained in its contacts with Israel that it cannot establish overt political ties with it because of the government's dependence on the Muslim party in the coalition. The party's leader has already announced that he will quit the coalition if relations are established with Israel.

The State Department's approval of the deal shows that the United States is seeking to aid the Sri Lankan Government in its fight against the Tamils. Some 30,000 to 50,000 people have been killed so far in the fighting which resumed on 19 April when the rebels violated the cease-fire and attacked the government army. Thousands of Tamils demonstrated against President Chandrika Bandaranaike when she came to New York to attend the UN anniversary celebrations and handed out video cassettes documenting the atrocities perpetrated against the Tamils.

Sri Lanka severed its ties with Israel in 1970. An Israeli interests office operating out of the U.S. Embassy opened in Colombo in 1984. In return, Israel supplied Sri Lanka with patrol boats and antiterror warfare training. Relations were severed for the second time in March 1990, but the two countries have been maintaining economic and security ties since then.

Officials Oppose Arms Deal

TA0311105895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry's professional echelons oppose the Israel-Sri Lanka arms deal and have recommended to the political echelons that they cancel it. A position paper drafted last week by the professional elements of the ministry says: "Political considerations cast doubt on the advantages to Israel of a favorable response to Sri Lanka's requests." Ministry officials will soon hold a discussion on the issue to formulate an official stand on the deal.

The position paper says that in the past Israel had an interest in having ties with Sri Lanka, seeking to get to India through it. Today, however, Israel has good relations with India, and it no longer needs middlemen. Foreign Ministry sources believe that Israel should not be courting a country that refuses to establish relations

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with it even today, after it has severed relations on several occasions and shown hostility toward Israel.

The sources also warned that selling heavy guns to the Sri Lankan Government, which is fighting the Tamil minority, would be interpreted as Israeli intervention in an internal conflict. This might encourage the Tamils to engage in terrorism against Israeli and Jewish targets. The Foreign Ministry officials are recommending that Israel offer to extend humanitarian and civilian aid to Sri Lanka, and thus have it examine the seriousness of its intentions toward Israel. [passage omitted]

Armored Corps Unveils 'All-Weather' System

TA0211160995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Armored Corps yesterday unveiled the Baz-2 fire-control system, which revolutionizes tank gunnery, especially mobile firing and target detection.

The Baz-2, developed mainly by El-Op, is installed on Merkava-3 tanks, considered the world's best main battle-tank.

The all-weather day and night system enables the commander and gunner to lock on a fixed or moving target while the Merkava itself is moving. The acquired target remains locked in the gun sight regardless of its own or the Merkava's movement.

The system links the tank's hydraulic turret controls to the main computer system, which follows the target until it is destroyed. The hydraulic stabilizing system nullifies the tank's vibrations when moving on rugged terrain.

"This represents a tremendous qualitative leap forward," OC [Officer Commanding] Armored Corps Brig.-Gen. Doviq Tal said last night at the Armored Corps memorial in Latrun, where the system was displayed.

Until now, such devices were used only in combat jets and attack helicopters, and their introduction into armored warfare marks a qualitative revolution that enables tanks to destroy more roving targets. It also eliminates the tank gunner's need to reacquire a target if his first shot misses.

For night fighting, the Baz-2 is equipped with an advanced thermal camera which relays clear pictures of heat-emitting objects to a video screen in the tank's fire-control system. A night-time picture of an enemy tank looks almost like a day-time tank, only in black and white.

OC Ground Corps Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne said that while the Merkava has the best crew-protection structure and armor in the world, armored personnel carriers [APC] operating in Lebanon pose a problem.

"If we add protective armor against Sagger missiles, it is at the expense of the APC's bottom, thus exposing it to mines and roadside bombs, and vice-versa. There is a limit on how much you can armor an APC, but I can tell you that the APCs we use in Lebanon have the best possible protection in the world." he said.

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Armored Vehicles Head for Israeli Embassy

LD0511085795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, 5 Nov — The Jordanian capital witnessed the movement of scores of armored vehicles of the security forces immediately after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was announced. King Husayn of Jordan this morning announced that he would attend the funeral tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Scores of armored vehicles of the Central Security Organization were seen moving towards west Amman areas after Rabin's assassination was announced. It is believed that they were moving towards the Israeli Embassy, which is in Amman's most prestigious district of 'Abdun. [passage omitted]

Minister on Energy Cooperation With Iraq, Qatar

NC0311141995 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Oct 95 pp 30-31

[Interview with Energy Minister Samih Darwazah by Samiyah Dallal in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dallal] Can Iraqi oil be exported via Haifa port before the embargo against Iraq is lifted? How strong is U.S. opposition to such a project?

[Darwazah] There is no discussion or intention of exporting oil through Haifa port.

[Dallal] Security Council Resolution No. 986 gives Iraq a chance to sell a limited amount of oil to alleviate the impact of the embargo. Iraq rejects the resolution. How do you see things now?

[Darwazah] This is a hypothetical question because there is no intention to export oil. Iraq's rejection of the resolution concerns Iraq; they know what they want. But their decision has no effect on the amount of oil imported by Jordan.

[Dallal] Qatar is conducting a study to supply Jordan with gas. Who will buy Qatari gas? Will the gas be stored in al-'Aqabah port, and how will it be transported abroad?

[Darwazah] Qatari gas will be transported to Jordan (in its liquid form) by ships. In al-'Aqabah it will be unloaded into tanks built for this purpose. Jordan will take what it needs and the rest will be left to the owner company to dispose of as it wishes. Neither the company nor the Qatari Government has discussed with us what will be done with the remaining gas.

[Dallal] Is there a plan to extend pipelines to the self-rule region to provide it with Qatari gas? How will the self-rule region receive oil?

[Darwazah] There is no intention or discussion of extending pipelines to the self-rule region to provide it with Qatari gas. It is being said that the region will receive gas from Egypt. As regards oil, the self-rule authority will buy it from Israel.

[Dallal] Have you achieved tangible results in your talks with the Saudi minister of oil and mineral resources regarding supplying Jordan with gas?

[Darwazah] We asked the brother Saudi minister to provide Jordan with gas but he told us there is no natural gas in Saudi Arabia now.

[Dallal] How far have you gone in linking the electricity grids of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the self-rule area, occupied Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Iraq?

[Darwazah] The five-way electricity linkage among Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt is going fine. Syria, Egypt, and Jordan will link up at the end of 1997. The necessary studies for linking the other states in the region will be conducted in 1997.

[Dallal] How far have you gone in your oil exploration in the Dead Sea region? Why have you announced that there is oil in this region now, after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty? Is it because you feared Israel would use the Dead Sea before the signing? [sentence as published]

[Darwazah] Jordan signed the exploration agreement with an American firm. No one has yet announced that there is oil in the Dead Sea region. If the wells that are to be drilled show oil is there, we will say so.

[Dallal] Are there any encouraging results regarding the al-Azraq basin, the Hamzah wells?

[Darwazah] We found no encouraging results in the al-Azraq basin. And there are no plans to settle Palestinians there.

[Dallal] If you decide to extend pipelines from Qatar and activate the tap line through which Israel will receive oil, will the Suez Canal be canceled as a transit route? We know Israel meets its oil needs through the canal under a long-term contract. If this function of the Suez Canal ends, how does Jordan view its relations with Egypt then?

[Darwazah] There are no pipelines from Qatar.

[Dallal] What results have you achieved regarding the effect of oil on the environment and ways to get

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rid of oil waste, especially sulfur? Have you received international assistance in this area?

[Darwazah] The whole world is now studying the effect of oil on the environment and how to dispose of oil waste. We will ask developed countries to help us keep our environment clean.

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U.S. Congress Bill To Move Embassy Assailed

JN0311212295 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Oct 95 p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Ahmad 'Ajaj: "Israel's Capital...Is it Jerusalem or Washington?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In brief, the U.S. Congress' decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem came not only to assert that the Zionist lobby can control U.S. political decisions, but also to directly involve the United States anew in the Arab-Israeli conflict and make it act against the Arabs—Muslims and Christians.

The decision—the unjustified present to Israel—is embarrassing the United States in terms of its commitments and is also arousing widespread doubts in the region about U.S. credibility in the peace process. These doubts will have the gravest impact on this process, which was originally based on the U.S. initiative, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the principle of land for peace and which has been enhanced by the declared U.S. pledge to play an effective and fair partner role.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the decision makes us believe that Israel's actual capital is Washington, regardless whether the diplomatic missions are located in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or elsewhere.

This idea was not prompted by the approaching U.S. elections, which usually force candidates for the White House to wear the traditional Jewish yarmulke, but by the decision itself which indicates the following:

1. The United States goes too far in falsifying history and geography in support of Torah conjectures by creating a situation in which senior politicians or the rabbis of politics, such as House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich or Republican Majority Leader Robert Dole, can win in elections only if they agree to enter the White House through the Israeli gate.

2. The Zionist lobby controls U.S. decisionmaking and even enacts laws and determines U.S. foreign policy in conflict with the national interests of the United States. The United States should consider the international situation, shoulder its international responsibilities in a fair manner, help nations attain a new era of peace, and end the hotbeds of tension in the aftermath of the cold war, during which the United States was completely biased toward Israel under the pretext of fighting "the Communist expansion" and "the red danger."

3. The decision has put the United States in confrontation with the resolutions of international legitimacy. This will harm U.S. international credibility and its role in drawing up the features of the new world order, especially since the decision coincided with the UN anniversary festivities.

4. The decision conflicts with an effective and fair role for the U.S. as a partner in the peace process, which is being endangered by unilateral and partial agreements. If the United States does not block that decision, both its credibility and its policy will collapse rather than just becoming doubtful.

It is true that concessions, relinquishments, and rushing toward normalization have helped Israel achieve its goals through partial agreements or Judaizing Jerusalem before its final-status negotiations. It is also true that Jerusalem is not owned by this or that party but is the spiritual capital of Muslims and Christians alike. Neither decisions nor attempts to falsify history can obliterate this reality. Those who have made the decision, who support it, and who remain silent about Judaization and normalization will discover that this reality cannot be bypassed.

Regardless of how it will be foiled or how it will be delayed to serve its supporters in the presidential elections, this decision is a treacherous stab to peace, which Israel has already turned into an illusion by avoiding its requirements.

Blind bias toward Israel and its schemes to satisfy the Zionist lobby in the United States, over Jerusalem in particular, is the beginning of a Jewish war against Islam and Muslims and against Christianity and Christians—a war whose size cannot be known if the peace process, endangered by Israel's intransigence, collapses.

Israel Not 'Currently' Ready for Peace

JN0411090995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH highlights the summit meeting in Damascus between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi. The paper notes the inseparability of the objectives and destinies of both Syria and Lebanon. It says: This not definitely not surprising, for the relations between the two countries are brotherly, firm, and ancient. This has been confirmed by the 2 November summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting showed agreement on all topics raised for discussion during the two presidents' talks. This is natural. Whatever concerns Lebanon concerns Syria and whatever threatens Lebanon threatens Syria. A strong Lebanon is a support for Syria and a strong Syria is a support for Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria's support for sisterly Lebanon in every ordeal is tangible evidence about

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Syria's sincerity toward its brethren in Lebanon and concern for Lebanon's unity, independence, and freedom. This is a principled Syrian commitment to support Lebanon as it moves toward stability, reconstruction, and national unity to liberate the occupied part of southern Lebanon. Syria also supports Lebanon's steadfastness in the face of the Israeli aggression and the Israeli pressures to make Lebanon sign a separate agreement that maintains the occupation, partitions Lebanon, and makes it subject to Israeli orders.

AL-THAWRAH then discusses the resistance in southern Lebanon and its legitimate right to continue attacks on the Israeli forces until they fully withdraw from the Lebanese territory.

Concluding, the paper says: Anti-peace Israel knows that the entire world is convinced that it is impossible to achieve peace in the region without Syria and Lebanon, that Israel must withdraw from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon, and that Syria and Lebanon refuse to offer any concessions that harm their sovereignty and territory. The world also knows that Israel is responsible for the instability and for leading the peace process to failure.

In another commentary headlined "An Abortive Campaign," AL-THAWRAH says that everyone, especially those concerned about the region's affairs and developments, are aware of the intensive Israeli media campaign against Syria. Israel has been fabricating lies and leveling false charges against Syria to distract the attention of the world public opinion and the international community from its decision to bring the peace process to a standstill and to provide a suitable regional climate for peddling its partial deals and suspect proposals which compromise the Arabs' just right to liberate their occupied land and restore their usurped rights.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the current fierce Israeli media campaign against Syria has been intensified as soon as the U.S. Administration announced its intention to dispatch Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on the peace process. This campaign reached its climax when Christopher said after his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad on 30 October that the United States is determined to continue contacts with the concerned parties to activate the peace talks.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH stresses that Israel is not serious about the peace talks, contrary to Syria, which is working seriously for peace. The paper recalls what President Hafiz al-Asad said when he recently received the European troika delegation. The president stressed Syria's seriousness about the peace process since its acceptance of the U.S. initiative in accordance with the bases agreed upon with the United States. However, Israel does not seem to be currently ready for peace.

In its editorial, TISHRIN discusses the Israeli maneuvers in the peace process. It says: Four years have passed since the convocation of the Madrid conference and the beginning of the peace negotiations. In the first year of the peace process, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir used to say that he would negotiate for 10 years, and that he would continue the policy of occupation, settlement building, and aggression so that the Arabs would be left with nothing to demand. In the subsequent three years, as proved by the tracks of negotiations, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been emplacing obstacles and playing an exposed game to turn the negotiations into an end by themselves and not a means to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN continues: Thus, there have been more Israeli pretexts, tactics, maneuvers, and tricks—wasting any chances to achieve a real, just, and comprehensive peace in the region. Moreover, Israel has exercised the policy of dictating terms that have nothing to do with the bases of a just, comprehensive peace. Israel has also ignored the foundations and requirements of peace. All this has constituted a constant Israeli policy to keep the peace talks stalemated, if not in a state of continuous and steady regression because of Israel's refusal to be committed to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

TISHRIN says: All that Israel has done so far is to conclude separate deals and sign interim agreements that have exacerbated the regional situation. These have not contributed toward achieving a true, just, and comprehensive peace. The paper adds: Israel's policy of evading the requirements of peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks has led the peace process to a stalemate. Consequently, too many opportunities provided by Syria through its full response to U.S. efforts to save the peace process from its setback have been wasted.

TISHRIN says: All signs indicate that had Israel been serious about making peace, it would have responded to the elements and factors of peace, headed by full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and acceptance of the principles of security arrangements on a balanced [mutawazin], equitable [mutakafi'], and reciprocal [mutaqabil] basis. Israel thinks about and takes everything into consideration with the exception of the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace. The peace process is now being affected by circumstances and factors that have nothing to do with its framework, orientations, and objectives.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Thus, by any yardstick, all the Israeli obstacles, maneuvers, and evasion of

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the bases and principles of the peace process are considered to be a deliberate evasion of a true, just, and comprehensive peace.

Position on Peace Process 'Fixed'

JN0611092695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 6 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the peace process, asserting that Syria's position on this process is fixed. Since the U.S. initiative was launched, Damascus has made tremendous efforts and offered everything possible to make U.S. and international efforts succeed and to transform the Madrid conference foundations into concrete reality.

The paper notes that although four years have passed since the Madrid conference, no serious results have been achieved to serve a just and comprehensive peace. The peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks has stumbled, thanks to Israel's evasion of its obligations.

TISHRIN adds that Syria has repeatedly called for achieving a peace of the brave. It has also offered constructive and objective proposals, and has not asked for anything more than the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which do not permit occupation and the annexation of the territory of others. These resolutions also call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The paper asserts that Syria still aspires for peace and works for it honestly and seriously. Syria offered everything necessary to provide the requirements for peace. The ball is still in the Israeli court. Achieving a firm and lasting peace depends on how serious and eager Israel will be in the near future.

TISHRIN concludes: Peace is not only a pressing need for the region, but is also a dire need for the world at large. Ending the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy will reflect positively on all nations. It all depends now on Israel's willingness to respond to the UN resolutions and the U.S. initiative, stop wasting time and maneuvering, and accept the requirements for a just and comprehensive settlement.

Press on Lebanon, Peace Process, Ross' Tour

JN0511163095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "One Destiny," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial: President Hafiz al-Asad has reiterated Syria's consistent position of extending all possible help to the hrothers in Lebanon. This position is based on a pan-Arab decision made by leader al-Asad.

The paper asserts that Syria offered many sacrifices, circumvented many accusations and vituperations, and continued to be faithful to the Lebanese land, people, and national accord. Syria did its best to save Lebanon by restoring both the role of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and the active presence of the Lebanese institutions in order to translate the interests of all sincere Lebanese citizens in terms of reconciliation and reconstruction on firm bases and principles.

AL-THAWRAH adds: With Syria's help, Lebanon has made decisive steps to end all abnormal conditions, spread the control of the legitimate authorities, and start from the point of reconciliation in order to uproot sedition and infighting once and for all. Lebanon has also made a genuine start on the reconstruction march in order to restore normal life throughout Lebanon. Meanwhile, Lebanon is facing the challenges Israel is imposing via the southern Lebanese gate with the spirit of adhering to the liberation of the entire land which the Israeli forces and their agents are occupying in southern Lebanon. Lebanon also seeks to win the peace battle through full coordination with Syria.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH [as heard] says: As leader al-Asad has said, Syria will continue to be alongside Lebanon in good and bad times, and will continue to be as interested in Lebanon's unity and accord and in liberating southern Lebanon as it is interested in Syrian territory and in liberating the Golan. Syria will not accept to sellout one iota of Syrian and Lebanese soil. It will not bargain over the principle of full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon as a basis for comprehensive peace.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH discusses the statements the Israeli officials are making these days in an attempt to distort Syria's position and hold it responsible for the current stalemate in the peace process.

The paper says: These statements are hollow and futile, and cannot be taken seriously by any neutral and honest observer. Events have shown that Israel is still

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fabricating postponement, procrastination, and wasting time and effort.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel has never sought to achieve a just and comprehensive peace or peace that gives everyone his dues. Instead, it has always worked for distorted and incomplete solutions which will allow it to obtain both land and peace and impose its control and hegemony over the whole Arab region. On the other hand, Syria has for years called for a well-entrenched peace that will remove injustice, suffering, and occupation and provide a secure and stable life in the region.

The paper points out that Syria has always stressed its total readiness to establish full peace in return for full withdrawal. In all past phases of the peace process, Syria only demanded restoration of its rights in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria only wanted a just solution which will achieve balanced [mutawazin] and equitable [mutakafi'] security for all parties. Such a just solution will not permit any party to obtain privileges that may undermine the other party's sovereignty and dignity.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The reports about Dennis Ross's planned new tour of the region have confirmed that Washington is following up on the peace process. These reports came in the wake of the confused Israeli position toward the U.S. efforts in particular and the entire peace process in general.

The paper adds: The Rabin government has escalated its intransigent positions and leaked statements about postponing the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks until after the elections.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Israel, as usual, tries to adhere to the policy of procrastination and maneuvering on pretexts which suit each phase of the Middle East events. The paper notes that Israel uses the pretext of terrorism when it receives painful blows from the valiant Lebanese national resistance, ignoring that its constant terrorism against defenseless southern Lebanese villages is a major reason for legitimate resistance.

The paper adds: Israel also uses the pretext of ground early warning stations to evade the requirements of peace as a result of its failure to dictate terms and drag Syria into the trap of incomplete agreements. Moreover, Israel uses the pretext of normalization under the slogan of economic prosperity in order to achieve hegemony over the region at a time when the Arab territories still suffer from the nightmare of occupation.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Despite its serious postponement of the peace negotiations until after the elections—which means maintaining the total dormancy of the peace process due to Israeli intransigence—the Rabin government tries to show that it has given the peace process the importance it deserves by making allegations which do not conform to reality. In brief, Israel declares its desire for peace only orally and theoretically. Practically, Israel continues to obstruct and strike at all the peace efforts.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Said To Announce Readiness To Resign

BK0411130395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Chris Lefkow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 4 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani is to announce soon that he is ready to resign, UN mediator Mahmoud Mestiri said Saturday [4 November].

"President Rabbani says he's ready to transfer power," Mestiri told reporters following a meeting here with the Afghan head of state.

"I think his intention is sincere," the head of the UN peace mission said. "He will make the declaration in the coming week."

Mestiri said agreement is yet to be reached, however, on such critical questions as to whom power would be handed over and when.

A failure to resolve these issues and renewed fighting between Afghanistan's warring factions derailed a previous plan for the president to step down in March.

"We're still talking about the mechanism," Mestiri said. "He (Rabbani) has his ideas. I have my own ideas.

"I will be back, hopefully within a week, to talk to him about to whom (power should be handed over)," he said.

The Tajik-dominated Rabbani government has lost control of much of the country during the past year to the Islamic Taleban militia, made up mainly of ethnic Pashtuns from the south.

Thousands of Taleban fighters have been besieging the capital Kabul since early October in a bid to topple the nearly three-year-old Rabbani government.

A barrage of rockets fired by Taleban forces landed at Kabul airport during Mestiri's visit but did not cause any casualties.

The capital's airport was closed by rocketing last week and Mestiri's UN plane was forced to land at Bagram air base north of here.

The Taleban are opposed by the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Rabbani's former defense minister and a hero of the anti-Soviet resistance.

A previous bid by the Islamic Taleban, or "Students of Religion," to capture the capital was repulsed by Mas'ud's troops in March.

Mestiri said an announcment by Rabbani that he is ready to step down could help achieve a settlement of the conflict between the country's warring factions.

"The Taleban say everything should start with a transfer of power," the former Tunisian foreign minister said. "We (the United Nations) are for an immediate ceasefire.

"I'd like a ceasefire today and declarations later.

"(But) the Taleban are saying the first step is transfer of power, then a ceasefire," he said. "The number one problem in Afghanistan is transfer of power. All parties want a transfer of power."

Mestiri said he planned to discuss the latest developments with the Uzbek militia leader General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam before returing to Kabul in the middle of next week.

Said Working Out Succession Details

BK0511130195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 5 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani is willing to step down, but details of his succession need to be worked out first, his spokesman said Sunday [5 November].

Presidential spokesman 'Abdol Aziz Murad told reporters here that Rabbani would announce in the coming days that he was prepared to resign.

"The President is ready to hand over power to a person or to a committee on the basis of an agreement involving all sides in Afghanistan," he said.

The spokesman stressed that "any kind of transfer of power must lead to peace, security and stability."

Rabbani has pledged to resign previously but Afghanistan's warring factions have been unable to agree on an individual or multi-member body to replace him.

Murad said the Rabbani government was not prepared to hand over power to the Islamic Taleban, whose militiamen have captured much of the country during the past year and have laid siege to the capital for nearly a month.

But he said the government would not object to having Taleban representatives on an eventual governing commission.

"We are not against it," he said.

Murad said the Taleban and other opponents of the nearly three- year-old government should not "waste time and energy" on trying to topple the it militarily.

"Experience has shown that they cannot reach their goals through military means," he said.

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The presidential spokesman said the government wanted a ceasefire prior to handing over power.

"But the opposition are insisting on a transfer of power first and then a ceasefire," he said.

UN mediator Mahmoud Mestiri is currently holding talks with the country's rival factions in a bid to come up with an interim government acceptable to all sides.

Spokesman: Government Ready To Transfer Power

LD0511172495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Any political solution for the Afghan problem must entail the ensurance of peace, security, and stability in the country. Aziz Morad, the presidential spokesman, today said that the government is ready to transfer power to an individual or a committee, provided all involved sides agree to the individual or the committee. He said: We do not oppose the participation of any group in resolving of issues; however, the opposition should not waste their time and energy to overthrow the regime by force. He added: Experience shows that they will not be able to achieve their aims by military means.

The presidential spokesman stated that the government wants, first of all, a cease-fire to be established.

Rabbani Expresses Support for UN Peace Efforts

LD0411174195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidency's press office reported to BAKHTAR that this afternoon esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met esteemed Mahmoud Mestiri [special UN envoy].

At this meeting esteemed Mestiri presented to the esteemed president a report on his efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan.

The esteemed president then expressed appreciation for the UN envoy's endeavors to restore peace in Afghanistan and he emphasized that Afghanistan supports the UN efforts and the government hopes that these efforts will end foreign interference and bring about peace in our country.

Taleban Reportedly Pressures Kabul Troops

BK0211164995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest reports from Afghanistan, troops loyal to the Kabul administration are under great pressure from Taleban due to defections from tribals in (Saef) valley and Konduz. They have taken up a defensive position in Kabul. Informed sources in Peshawar say 600 troops of Commander Babajan, engaged against the forces of General Rashid Dostam in (Saef) valley have joined forces with the troops of General Dostam. This has strengthened the troops belonging to Jumbish-e Milli of General Dostam under the command of General Majid Rezai. Dostam troops are now closing in on the (Saef) valley and have effectively encircled the remnants of the Rabbani troops.

Meanwhile, notables in Konduz have assured a deputy of General Rashid Dostam that if he gives assurances that their locality will not be attacked, they will support him. As a result of successful negotiations, an unspecified number of troops laid down their arms before Dostam militia, and have offered to fight under his command. Kabul administration forces are constrained to take defensive positions amid the civilian population of the capital, Kabul, due to their failures at various fronts as well large-scale defections. According to defense analysts, it is an attempt by the Rabbani government to use the civilian population as human shields and if the Taleban attack their positions, they would be blamed for the high rate of civilian casualties. According to reports, people coming from Kabul say that the Kabul administration has become almost ineffective, and is adopting various measures in a state of frustration, including atrocities on the civilian population and expressions of doubt [as heard]. This shows that its morale is sinking day by day.

Government Forces Push Back Taleban Offensive

LD0511173395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two offensives by Benazir Bhutto's Taleban were defeated last night toward the south of Kabul. Quoting sources at the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR reports that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban resorted to two attacks last night. The first attack was at around 1900 and the second at around 0300.

The forces of the Islamic army pushed back the mercenary Taleban's attacks and inflicted heavy casualties on them. It is reported that Taleban's two heavy weapons launchers were destroyed in last night's attacks.

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India

Rao Reportedly Pledges Greater Kashmir Autonomy

BK0411154295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1445 GMT 4 Nov 95

["Special message to the nation" by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 4 November — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] From a long distance away from home, I am addressing an appeal through this statement to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, at a time which could well turn their destiny once again in a glorious manner so as to make that lovely land a pier to paradise — Janat Nishan — as it has been called for centuries.

I sincerely feel that the people of the state deserved this. It is long overdue. Terrorism and militancy have subjected the people of Kashmir to unprecedented sufferings during the last six years. The people have faced untold violence, resulting in death and destruction. Thousands of families have been uprooted from their hearths and homes. This virtual proxy war has been unleashed from across the border in complete disregard of international law, good neighborly relations, and all canons of decency and human behavior. Persistent attempts are being made to create anarchic conditions in the state and to keep the turmoil going, thus aggravating the miseries of the common people in a variety of ways.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir and its people are an integral part of this diverse mosaic of India. We cannot, therefore, be mute spectators to their sufferings. They have suffered too long already. We express our resolve to bring back normalcy in the state, to wipe the tears from every eye. Historically, the rest of India shares a special kind of relationship with the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This relationship is delineated in Article 370 of the Constitution of India. We have repeatedly asserted that Article 370 shall not be abrogated. This article is the product of our very assiduous and devoted labors in the Constituent Assembly.

Our constitution provides ample opportunities to meet the aspirations of diverse groups in our population. It is a vibrant document that enshrines the principles of federalism in a pluralistic society. Therefore, it shall be our endeavor to strengthen within the Constitution the autonomy of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, keeping in view the aspirations of the people.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir itself represent several diversities of culture, language, and religion. The state has stood as a shining symbol of secularism in the most adverse circumstances. Despite its diversity, the state is a single political entity anchored together for centuries. Our resolve to strengthen the autonomy in the state has reference to the entire state. We treat all the three regions of state on equal footing.

We also wish to make it clear that it has never been our intention to impose any person or party on the state. The free will of the people of the state alone shall prevail. It is our earnest desire to leave the people of their sufferings by responding to their genuine and legitimate aspirations.

And, finally, being a democratic polity, we would like to bring president's rule in the state to an end and reestablish a popular state government at the earliest opportunity through a completely free and fair election.

Through a process of consultation and concurrence, certain provisions of the Constitution of India were made applicable to the state from time to time. The Constitution Application to Jammu and Kashmir Order 1950, the Delhi Agreement of 1952, and later the Constitution Application to Jammu and Kashmir Order 1954 thus became part of our statute. With a view to bringing about a greater degree of understanding in the relations between the Union and the State of Jammu and Kashmir, discussions with the representatives of the state took place in late 1974, which culminated in the Kashmir Accord of 1975. It was agreed that the state, which is a constituent unit of the Union of India would continue to be governed by Article 370 of the Constitution of India. The accord provided that the provisions of the Constitution of India, which were applied to the State of Jammu and Kashmir with adaptions and modifications, could be gone into on merits and be altered or repealed by the president under Article 370. As announced by then Prime Minister Shrimati [Mrs.] Indira Gandhi in Parliament on 24 February 1976, the constitutional relationship between the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union will continue as it has been, and the extension of further provisions of the Constitution to the state will continue to be governed by the procedure prescribed in Article 370. There will be no weakening of the ties which exist between the Union of India and its constituent units, of which the State of Jammu and Kashmir is one.

The agreed conclusions seek to reassure the state that, in case the state government comes up with any proposal to change any central law made after 1953 on matters in the concurrent list, the grant of assent to the bill will be sympathetically considered. Thus, both the Constitution of India and the State Constitution have a built-in flexibility in respect of the autonomy of the state within the overall limits of the Constitution. Regarding the desire for the change of nomenclature

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of the chief minister, even during the Kashmir accord discussions in 1975, it was agreed by the Government of India that, if the state legislature amends the State Constitution to provide for the title Wazire Azam [prime minister], it would have no objection. Similarly, as regard the nomenclature Sadare Riyasat [president], the state legislature may initiate action for amending the State Constitution.

There have also been suggestions about a financial package. As it is, 70 percent of the funding of the entire expenditure, both developmental and nondevelopmental, of the state comes from transfers and devolutions from the Center. Further, the state's own economy has been ruined because of terrorist violence in the last five-six years. I have no doubt that the entire nation would help to rebuild the economy of Kashmir and to provide employment opportunities to the Kashmir youths, who have great skills in manufacture of handicrafts and in trading etcetera, but who have been misled into the path of violence.

Conscious and focused attention has been given to these problems of development in the last one year, and government will formulate further financial and developmental benefits to the state in due course. A time bound revival of the state's economy—which lies utterly shattered as a result of the militant activity in the past few years—is an urgent necessity. What is important at this stage is for the people of the state to take a determined stand against terrorism—which has ruined the state—and to help restore complete peace and bring about their own representative government.

The Election Commission should soon be taking a decision on the holding of elections to the state legislature. The Government of India, the Election Commission, and the state government are determined to see that the elections would be free and fair. I would assure that all possible measures have been taken to ensure the peaceful conduct of the elections. I, therefore, appeal to the people of Jammu and Kashmir most fervently to participate in the elections and help themselves and the country to bring to an end a violent and ruinous chapter in the state's history and to usher in an era of normalcy, democracy, and prosperity all round.

Jai Hind. [Hail India]

Cabinet Reportedly Decides To Hold Kashmir Elections

BK0411130795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union cabinet has decided to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the middle of next month. The decision was taken today at a meeting presided by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today. A press statement said that the decision has been taken after considering the recommendations of the group of ministers on Jammu and Kashmir. The cabinet has also approved certain amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of People's Act 1957 to provide for various contingencies that may arise while conducting elections in the state.

The prime minister has appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to help restore the democratic process in the state. In a recorded message from Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso this afternoon, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Election Commission will soon be taking a decision on elections. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the government is committed to ensuring a free and fair poll in Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the people of the state to actively participate in the election process and defeat the nefarious designs of the destructive forces. He pointed out that the state has suffered much during the last six years through militancy. Emphasizing that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, Mr. Rao said a time bound revival of the state's economy is an urgent necessity.

'Major' Kashmiri Groups Said To Reject Elections

BK0511155695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All major Kashmiri political groups have criticized the Indian Government's decision to hold elections [in Kashmir]. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Jammu and Kashmir People's League, in separate statements, have criticized the Indian election plans and said that the people of occupied Kashmir will never participate in sham elections to be conducted by the occupation government.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the Hizbullah group pledged not to allow the so-called elections and said they would have no option but to come to the streets and fight the Indian troops. They said that elections are no substitute for a plebiscite. The Kashmir Muslim employees said that they would not take part in the election despite the government's threats.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah of the National Conference said his party would boycott the election farce. He has already denounced Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's so-called political package for occupied Kashmir.

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Abducted Kashmir Tourists Reportedly Safe

BK0411100095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 4 (AFP) — A senior official in Indian Kashmir said Saturday [4 November] that all the four tourists abducted by Muslim militants were safe, as the westerners entered the fifth month of their captivity.

"We have information that all the four are safe", said D.D. Saklani, security advisor the governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Some of them (the abducted tourists) may have some minor ailments, but there is nothing serious," he added.

Earlier reports said one of the hostages, the American Donald Hutchings was in a serious condition, having developed an infection after suffering from frostbite.

Hutchings, 42, as well as Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, have spent harrowing weeks since they were taken by Muslim militants between July 4 and 8 while trekking near the hill resort of Pahalgam.

A fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was beheaded by the militants in August.

Saklani said there has been no contact since September 19 with the Al-Faran group which holds the foreign tourists. He declined to say how the authorities knew the hostages were "safe".

The hostage crisis entered the fifth month, making it the second longest period that foreigners were held in captivity by Muslim rebels in Kashmir. A former Indian legislator was held by militants for 364 days and released last year.

Meanwhile, Syed Ali Shah Gilani, a senior Kashmiri leader accused the Indian authorities of masterminding the abductions.

"Kidnapping of foreigners helps India only and we are sure the act has been orchestrated by India to malign Kashmiri freedom struggle," he said. But such charges have been dismissed by Indian officials.

They have rejected demands by the previously-unknown Al-Faran to free 15 jailed militants in exchange for the hostages and also ruled out military operations to rescue them.

New Delhi believes Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar guerrilla outfit, made up mainly of Afghans. It kidnapped two British trekkers last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

"We appeal to the captors to release the four on humanitarian grounds and spare their families further pain," Saklani said.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, since 1989 when militants stepped up a bloody campaign for secession.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the state over which they have fought two wars. Islamabad denies the charges but says it extends moral and diplomatic support to a legitimate self- determination movement.

'Sources' Say Deal 'Almost' Reached on Hostages

BK0411134295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 4 (AFP) — Modalities were being worked out for the possible release of four Western tourists as they entered their fifth month of captivity Saturday [4 November] at the hands of Muslim rebel abductors in Kashmir, officials said here.

The official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "a deal had almost been clinched and only the modalities of release are being arranged." The venue of the release has not been decided yet.

The Al-Faran rebel group has reportedly demanded a sum of two million rupees (62,500 dollars) from the governments of Britain, Germany and the United States. The captors described it as "maintainence charges" for the hostages' upkeep and not ransom, sources said.

They did not provide any other details.

Indian authorities believe the Al-Faran is a front of the Harkat- ul-Ansar rebel outfit, mainly made up of Afghans, which kidnapped two British trekkers in Kashmir last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

The final preparations for the release were being worked out by Western diplomats camping in Kashmir, the sources said. Direct contact between the Al-Faran and Indian authorities ended on September 19.

The Al-Faran kidnapped American Donald Hutchings, 42, Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, between July 4 and 8 while trekking near the hill resort of Pahalgam.

A fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was beheaded by the militants in August.

Hutchings is feared to be suffering from gangrene after developing an infection from frostbite.

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Meanwhile, a senior Kashmir official said Saturday that all the hostages were unharmed.

"We have information that all the four are safe", D.D. Saklani, security advisor the Kashmir governor said.

"Some of them (the abducted tourists) may have some minor ailments, but there is nothing serious,", he added.

The crisis entered the fifth month Saturday, making it the longest period that foreigners were held in captivity by Muslim rebels in Kashmir. A former Indian state legislator was held by militants for 364 days and released last year.

Indian authorities have rejected demands by the previously- unknown Al-Faran to free 15 jailed militants in exchange for the hostages and also ruled out military operations to rescue them.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, since 1989 when separatists stepped up a bloody campaign for secession.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the state over which they have fought two wars. Islamabad denies the charge but says it extends moral and diplomatic support to a self-determination movement.

Iran

Work Said To Begin on Bushehr Nuclear Plant

LD0611122695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant will become operational within the next four years. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] All the studies relating to the completion of the Bushehr nuclear plant have been completed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia and work on the completion of the power plant has now begun in practice; the training of Iranian specialists will begin soon in Russia.

Dr. Reza Amrollahi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, explains:

[Begin recording] [Amrollahi] The Islamic Republic of Iran's sole goal in the atomic sector — I have said this repeatedly before and I will say it once again — is for peaceful purposes. We are after peaceful aims and this is why we wish to complete the power station, make it operational, and obtain energy from it. This is why we signed an agreement with Russia for its completion and I hope that the power station's first unit will join the grid, so to speak, within three to four years. Our agreement costs about $780 million; 25 percent of which is in terms of the supply of goods by us, so to speak, and part of it is also in rials, which we will pay to the Russian side in rials for their local work, so to speak.

[Correspondent] What stage has the training of Iranian specialists by Russia reached?

[Amrollahi] Look, the training of Iranian specialists is for running the reactor. We are laying the groundwork for this now and, God willing, some of our engineers will be trained in the near future for this particular power station and for running it. [end recording]

U.S. Sanctions Said Forging National Unity

LD0411140695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Six months have passed since the announcement of the latest U.S. economic sanctions against Islamic Iran, but, contrary to the expectations of the White House statesmen, the imposed sanctions have failed to have much effect on Iran's economy. Recently the U.S. assistant-secretary of state for political affairs, in a report submitted to that country's banking committee, acknowledged that the intensification of Iran's economic blockade has damaged the U.S. Government more than anything. This U.S. official implicitly describes the U.S. efforts for imposing economic sanctions against Iran as contrary to Washington's pledges vis-a-vis the regulations of the World Trade Organization.

Experts in international issues believe the U.S. plan to intensify economic pressures on Iran — which began through the influence of the Zionist circles in the White House — has resulted in isolating the United States rather than the economic isolation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Contrary to Washington's expectations, all U.S. allies refused to participate in sanctions against Iran. The European Union and Japan were among the main countries which responded negatively to that U.S. request.

It is worth mentioning that the European companies declared their readiness to fill the vacuum left by the U.S. companies in Iran and the signing of the huge oil agreement with the French Total company instead of the U.S. Conoco is considered as a practical example of Europe's opposition to the U.S. policies regarding Iran. Also the fact that the country's oil revenues in the first six months of the current year [1374, year beginning 21 March 1995] has been more than that envisaged in the 1374 budget and that big Asian and European states have increased their purchase of oil from Iran demonstrates the failure of the White House plan for an oil embargo against Iran.

Another point which the economic experts interpret as the failure of Washington's economic pressures

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against Iran is the reduction of dependence of the Islamic Republic of Iran on foreign countries. The government's planning and infrastructural measures during the First [Economic] Development Plan have reduced the country's requirements from abroad and country's economic independence has eliminated the vulnerability of the industries and the national economy to any foreign sanctions.

During the former regime the state economic structure was totally dependent on the United States. But following the victory of the Islamic revolution that relationship of domination and dependence was broken and the newly-formed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran drastically reduced the extent of dependence on the United States and the implementation of major economic and industrial projects in the past six years has also confirmed the ineffectiveness of US sanctions against Iran.

Anyhow, in the final analysis, it must be said that the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran have had [positive] outcomes such as the strengthening of the national unity and reliance on domestic resources for the development of the country. The sanctions, beside being ineffectiveness, have, for the first time after the Cold War, demonstrated U.S. isolation in the international arena, proving that under the new conditions of international competition, the U.S. New Order, led by Washington, is doomed to total failure.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Held at Former Embassy

'National Day' Ceremonies Begin

LD0411115795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the anniversary of the capture of the U.S. den of espionage, the cry of "Death to America" is being chanted all over Iran today.

The ceremonies marking the National Day of Struggle Against World Arrogance began a few moments ago opposite the former U.S. den of espionage. Huge crowds of the martyr-nurturing nation, particularly university students and school pupils, have taken part in today's demonstrations.

Various strata of the people are moving from various directions towards the former U.S. den of espionage chanting "Death to America" and condemning the hostile actions of the world arrogance and the international Zionism. They are also stressing their solid determination to confront enemy conspiracies and, once again, pledging their allegiance to the aspirations of the late Imam [Khomeyni], God's benedictions upon him, and the immaculate blood of the honorable martyrs of the Islamic revolution. They are also pledging to follow the instruction of the Guardian of the Cause of the Muslims of the World [Khamene'i] to their last breath. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Addresses Rally

LD0411125595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the occasion of Students Day and the National Day of Struggle Against World Arrogance, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to 13th Aban [4 November] as a pride-inspiring, historic, and memorable day for Iranian students and people. [passage omitted]

The president, who was speaking at a gathering of the country's model students, said: If the world arrogance, led by the blood-thirsty United States, has not managed to damage the solid determination of the people of Iran by confronting them directly or indirectly during the past 17 years, it is because Islamic laws have been established, principled infrastructural actions have been taken, and attention has been paid to knowledge and science in Iran. [passage omitted]

Jannati Views 'Illegal' U.S. Presence

LD0411175395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Jannati delivered a speech at the 4 November ceremonies, in which he described the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf as illegal. He announced: The Muslim people of Iran are ready to defend, with all their might, the line of the imam [Khomeyni] and to support the velayat [Khamene'i's role as supreme leader].

Ayatollah Jannati, secretary of the coordination council of the Islamic Publicity Organization, referred to the U.S. embargo on Iran. He said: The Muslim people of Iran, as the followers of the line of the imam and the supporters of the leadership, have stood fast in the face of this embargo and have defeated it.

Ayatollah Jannati described the extensive presence of the people in the 4 November ceremonies as a declaration of renewed allegiance to the eminent leader of the revolution. He stated: Our enemies are so frightened of the presence of the people in various arenas that they are not even prepared to report this vast and extensive presence.

At the end of the ceremonies on the day of struggle against global arrogance, the participants issued a 10-

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point resolution, declaring their preparedness to obey the commands of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the Muslims, as the standard- bearer of the all-round struggle against arrogance. In the resolution, the clergy are described as the only guardian and definer of pure Islam and those people who have, unwittingly, been caught up in the enemies' cultural onslaught have been asked to disappoint the enemy in achieving its ends.

In the resolution, the military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf, the silence of international organizations in the face of the crimes of the Serbs, the Zionists, and the Americans, the economic conspiracies of the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the transfer of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem are condemned.

The participants in the rallies also called for the restructuring of the United Nations, the elimination of the right of veto, and the continuation of the anti-Zionist struggles until the destruction of the occupiers of Qods [Jerusalem].

Support for the efforts of the serving government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani toward reconstructing the country was among the other points of the resolution.

'World Arrogance' Rallies End

LD0411195695 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA — Rallies marking the national day of campaign against world arrogance and students day ended here today at the former U.S. den of spies, with a resolution that called the American Administration as the "number one enemy of the Islamic revolution."

The historic 4th of November which marks three important events in the history of the Islamic revolution is celebrated nationwide in Iran.

The first sparks of the Islamic revolution were lit in 1963 this day with the exile of Imam Khomeyni by the monarchical regime. In 1978 on this day the shah's regime martyred several students at Tehran University. The next year following the triumph of the Islamic revolution, students following the path of Imam Khomeyni, made November 4 memorable by seizing the U.S. Embassy in Tehran which was functioning as a espionage den against the Islamic Republic.

"Today, as enemy number one of the Islamic revolution, the U.S. Government is trying to target and distort the fundamental beliefs and values of Muslims. We condemn this Satanic move and warn the U.S. of its dire consequences," said the resolution.

The huge rally which was attended by college students, university professors, lecturers of theological schools, businessmen and other strata of society, denounced the decision of the American Congress to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Bayt al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] in occupied Palestine, and called it another act of treason against Islam.

Referring to the recent martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary-general of Islamic Jihad of Palestine, in Malta, the resolution said al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom was not the first crime of the Zionist regime in the history of the Palestine occupation.

"We as a part of the Islamic ummah announce our all-out support for Islamic movements throughout the world for revival of Islamic thought," it said.

"We support the Bosnian, Lebanese, Palestinian and Chechen Muslims and condemn the shameful silence of the so-called human rights committees and organizations of the West towards the crimes of the Serbs and the Zionists," added the resolution.

It was also critical of the United Nations and called it a tool of the big powers particularly that of the United States for oppressing world nations, and called for restructuring the world body and putting an end to the unjust power of veto and the composition of the permanent members.

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